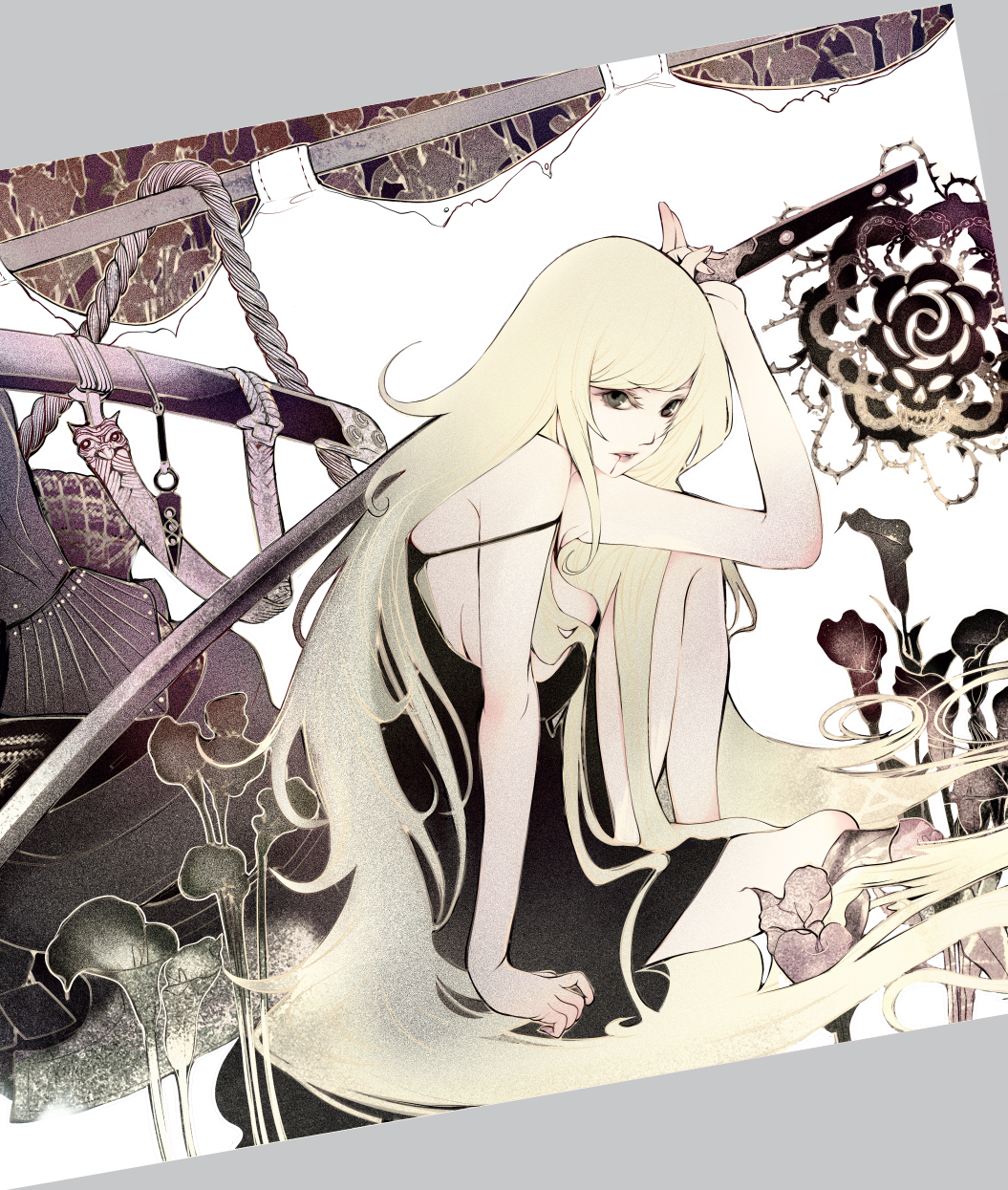
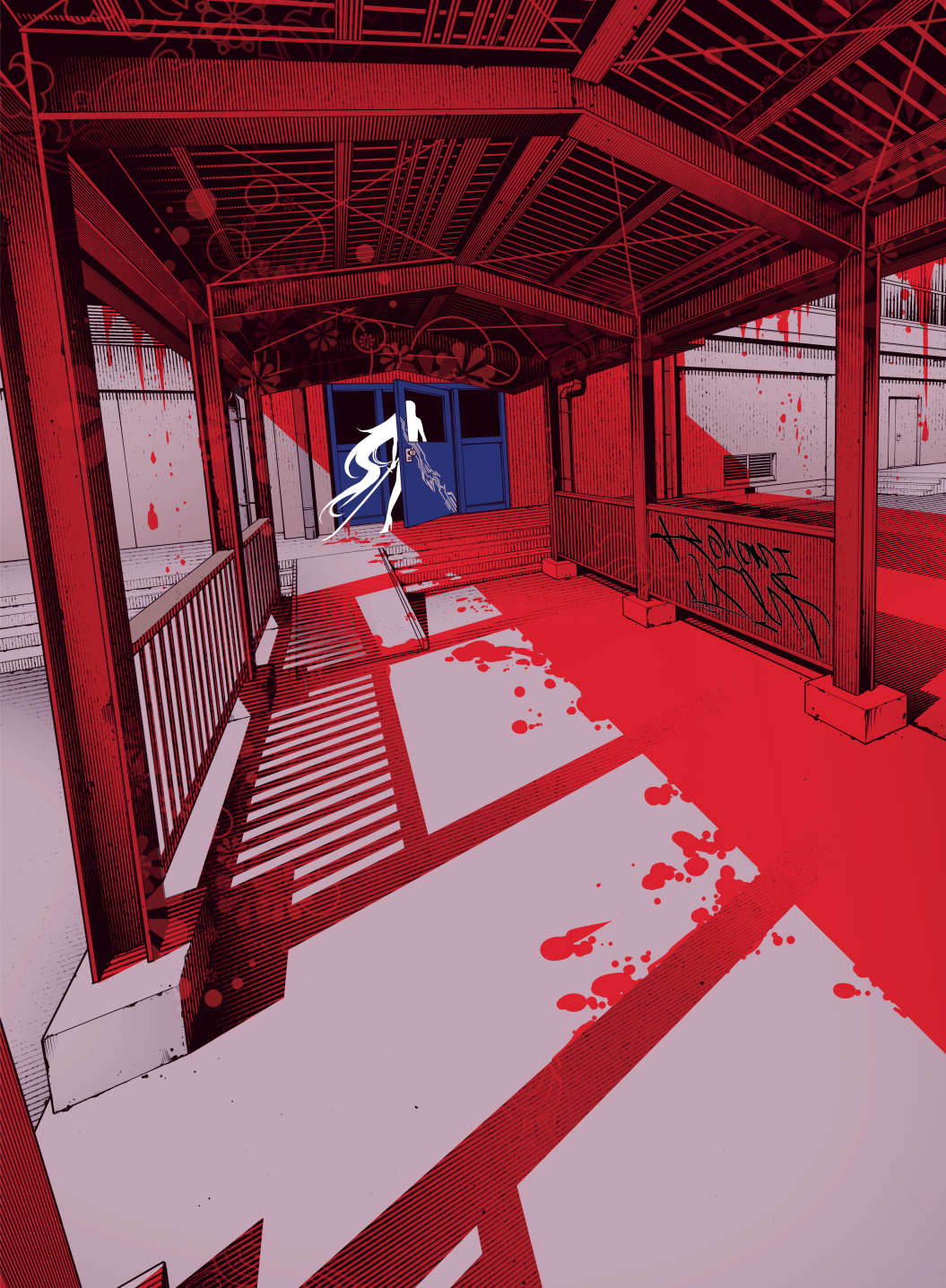
BAKEMONOGATARI
9
OH!GREAT
ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN
ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN





BAKEMONOGATARI

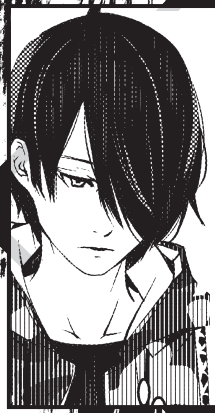
OH!GREAT

9

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS



Koyomi Araragi

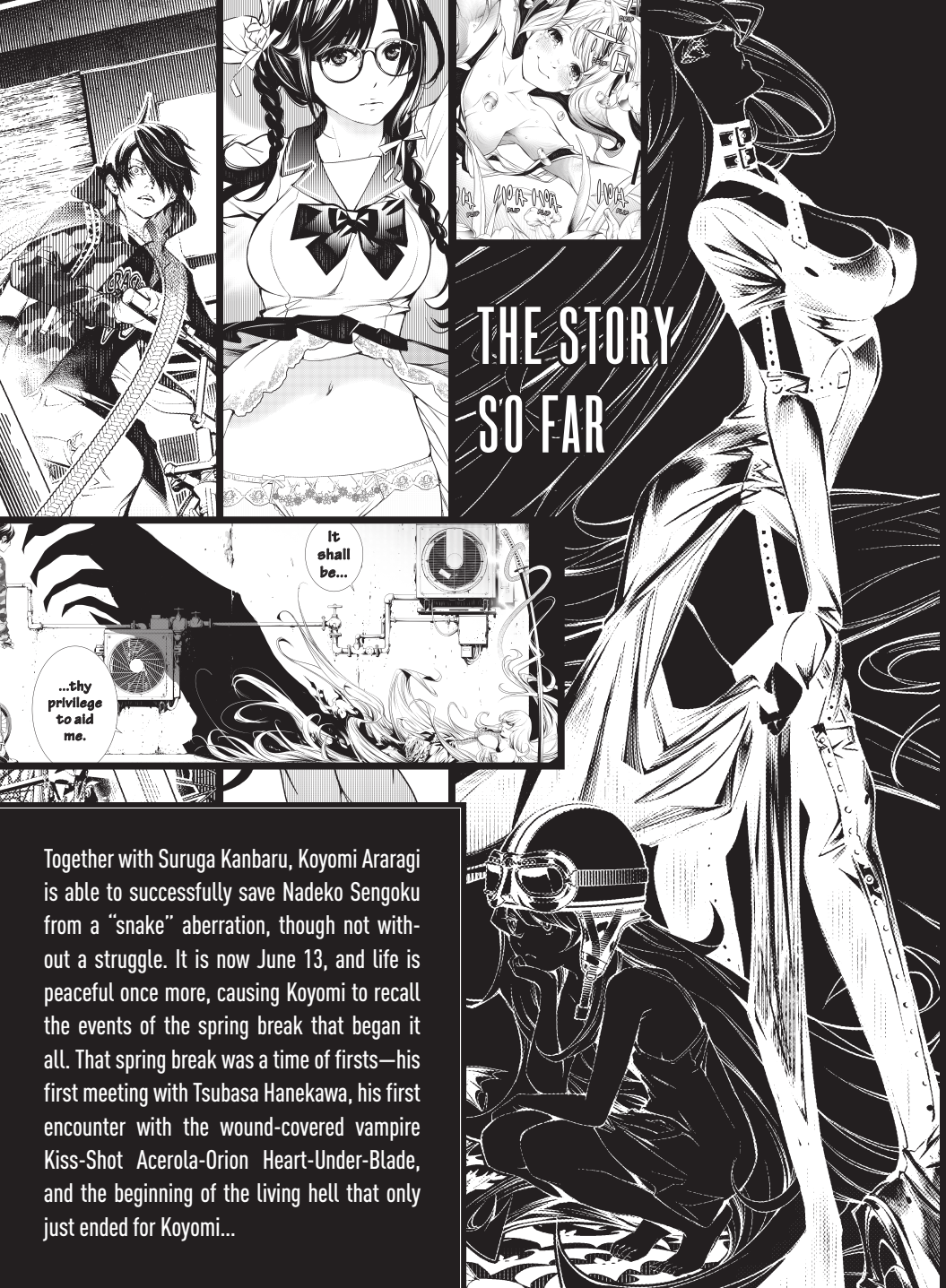
A boy who one day encountered a beautiful yet wound-covered vampire. The protagonist of this story, who now looks back to tell its tale of wounds.

Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate and an honor student that no honor could sufficiently describe. When she happens to meet Koyomi, she begins to feel concerned and goes out of her way to talk to him in hopes of becoming his friend.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade

A noble, haughty, beautiful, iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded vampire. She seeks help from Koyomi when he happens to pass her by on the ground, covered in wounds and with her limbs torn off.



Together with Suruga Kanbaru, Koyomi Araragi is able to successfully save Nadeko Sengoku from a "snake" aberration, though not without a struggle. It is now June 13, and life is peaceful once more, causing Koyomi to recall the events of the spring break that began it all. That spring break was a time of firsts—his first meeting with Tsubasa Hanekawa, his first encounter with the wound-covered vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade, and the beginning of the living hell that only just ended for Koyomi...

Chapter 0 Koyomi Vamp

BOOK DESIGN
VEIA

You may be thinking, "You're dragging this Hanekawa's panties thing out way too long."

...And I wouldn't fault you for that.

But you see, if I hadn't recalled Hanekawa's panties...

...then my life surely would have ended here.

One might say I'm deeply indebted to Hanekawa ('s panties) for that.

SHIINE

GRA-
KRAKK

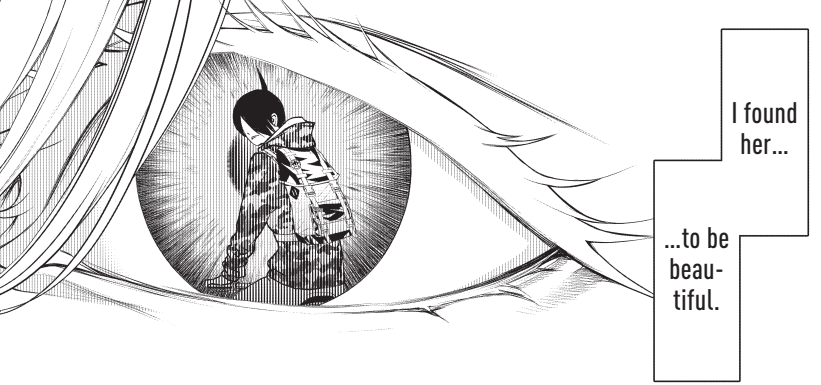
GZZZT
GZZZT
GZZZT
GZZZT
GZZZT
GZZZZZT
KRAKL
Ah—

Unh —
Nay... What would be the meaning in pulverizing him here...?
Not this... No...
Unngh !
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
Nay... I lack... blood...
My judg-ment... is...!
GRAK
THONK
THONK
Eegh!
GKKT
GKKT
GKKT

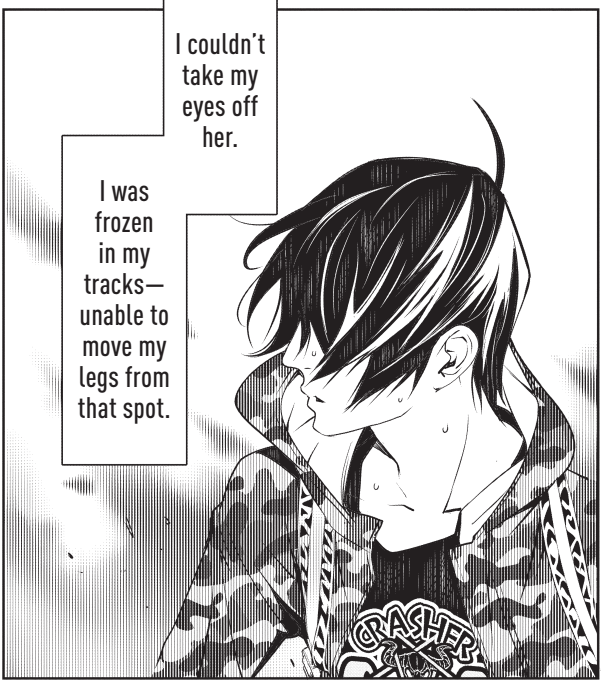
SCREEK
Su—
...Surely, thou jest...?

SHIVER
...
That voice ...
Dost thou mean to say...
...thou wilt not... aid me...?
CRASH
SLURCH
She suddenly sounds so frail... All the coldness and harshness...
All the irreverence and arrogance of someone who only sees me as food has vanished...

Unh—
BLUP

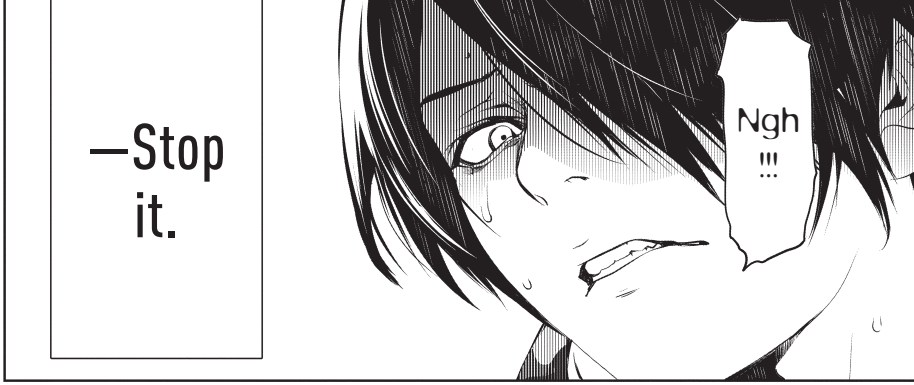


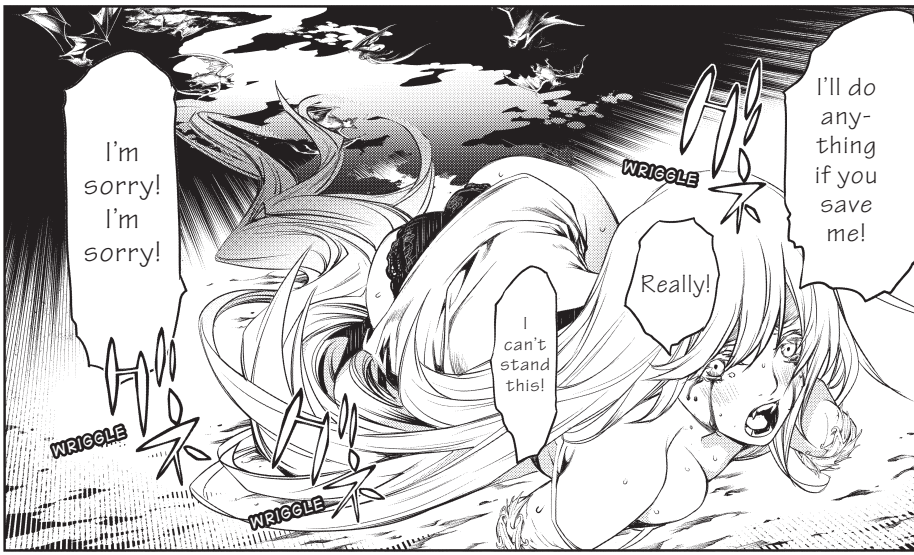
I was instantly under her spell.

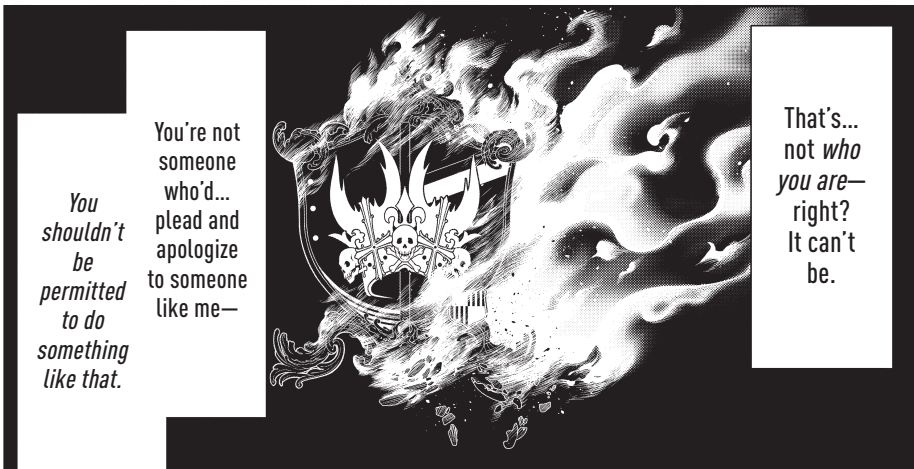


SLURCH
Save me!
Save me!
I don't want to die!
I don't want to die!
No! No!
I don't wanna die!
no, no, no !!
SLURCH
SLURCH

No,
SLURCH
Someone! Someone, someone!
I'm sorry!
Some-one...!
I'm sorry!
I'm begging you! I'm sorry. I'm sorry!
SLURCH
SLURCH
Save me. Save me.
Please.


—Stop it.
Ngh !!!

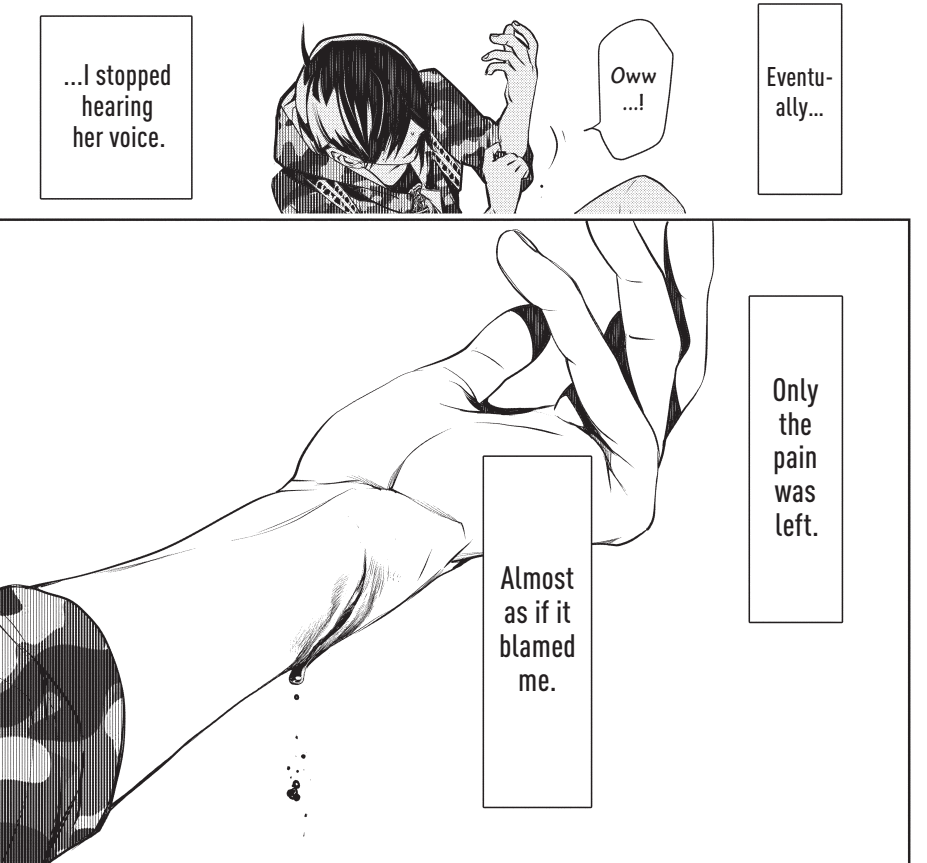

I'm sorry! I'm sorry!
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
I can't stand this!
Really!
WRIGGLE
I'll do anything if you save me!

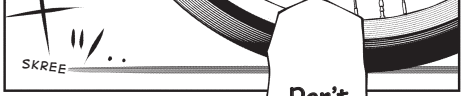

You shouldn't be permitted to do something like that.
You're not someone who'd... plead and apologize to someone like me—
That's... not who you are— right? It can't be.

I—I...
I don't think ... ...I'm allowed to let this beautiful vampire die in such an ungraceful way.
No... Even then... How am I supposed to save her? She only wants me as an emergency food ration...!!
In other words, saving her would be my death.
I've never even donated blood before, and now I'm going to let her drink all the blood in my body?
Wuh.
AAAAHHH
AAAHH
GSSHNK
GSSHNK
GSSHNK
GSSHNK
A
AAA
A

I forced my frozen legs to move— and traveled pretty far.
As if to cast some-thing off. As if to forget it all.
GSSHNK
GSSHNK
GSSHNK
GSSHNK
GSSHNK
GSSHNK
AAAAAAAAAHHH
She made so much noise back there. Her screams were so loud.
GKKT
Daagh!
It doesn't have to be me. Someone else... Someone else can take my place—

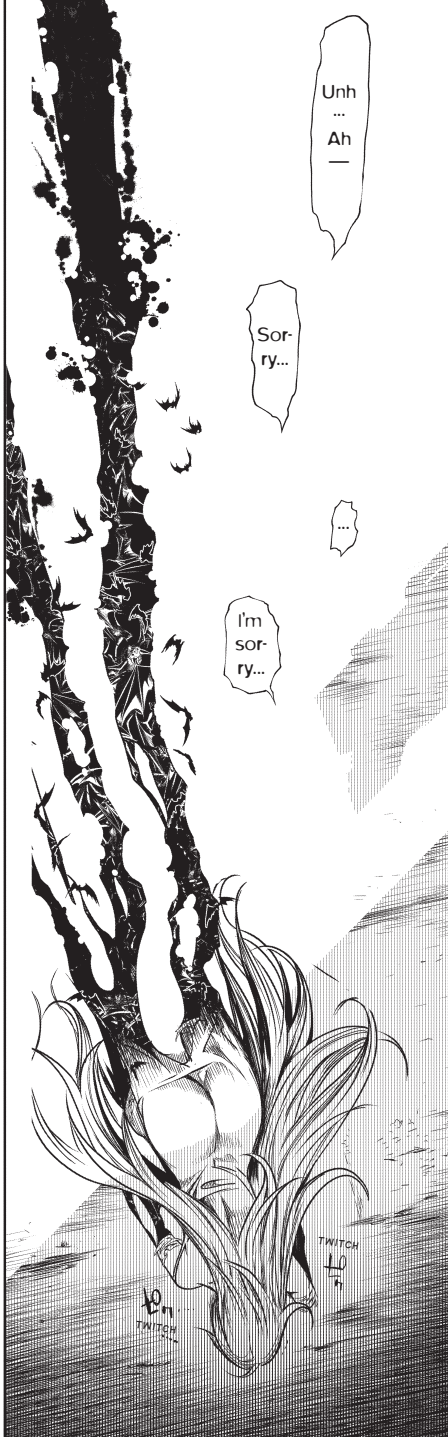
Haah!
Hfff!
Haah!
Haah!


...I stopped hearing her voice.
Oww ...!
Eventu-ally...
Only the pain was left.
Almost as if it blamed me.


SKREE

Don't give up, stupid !!

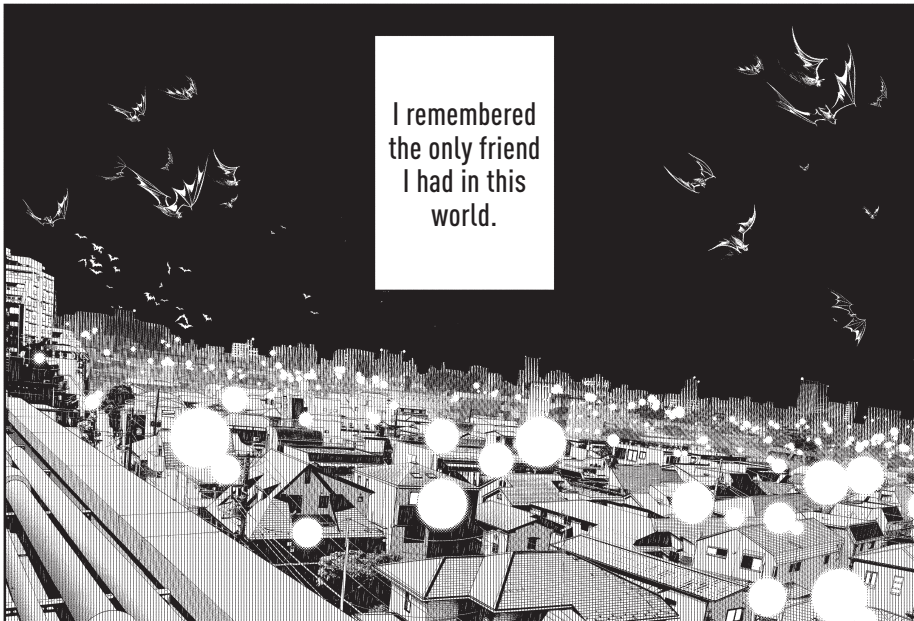
Dam-mit!
How did things end up this way—? Well...of course I know how.
What reason did I have to bother staying alive? I didn't really have one.
Dam-mit.
Dam-mit!
There was no beauty in it—nothing pretty about it. And if that was my life...


Unh ... Ah —
Sor-ry...
...
I'm sor-ry...
TWITCH
TWITCH

Go ahead. Suck.
...then I should die so this beautiful creature may live.
I'll give it all to you. Don't leave a single drop— wring me dry.
I'll save you. Suck my blood.
Ah.
...
...Really...?

I'll be reborn as someone who's tactful, who dances around relationships, who doesn't feel guilty over every little detail, who can leave things to chance without having to worry so much, who doesn't feel any doubts about having things his way, and who's able to blame everything bad in his life on others!
I swear, I'll make something better of my next life!!
Dammit…
—Dad. Mom. I'm sorry. Thank you for everything.
Goodbye, *mes sœurs*. I truly loved you.
Having so few people to recall at a time like this is pretty convenient.
Th—

Thank you...
I'm speculating here, but this may have been the first time in her life that...
...Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade gave someone her thanks.
I instantly began to lose consciousness.
And then,
with my last wisp of awareness, I—


I remembered the only friend I had in this world.

怪物 mono

騒 gatari

化 bake

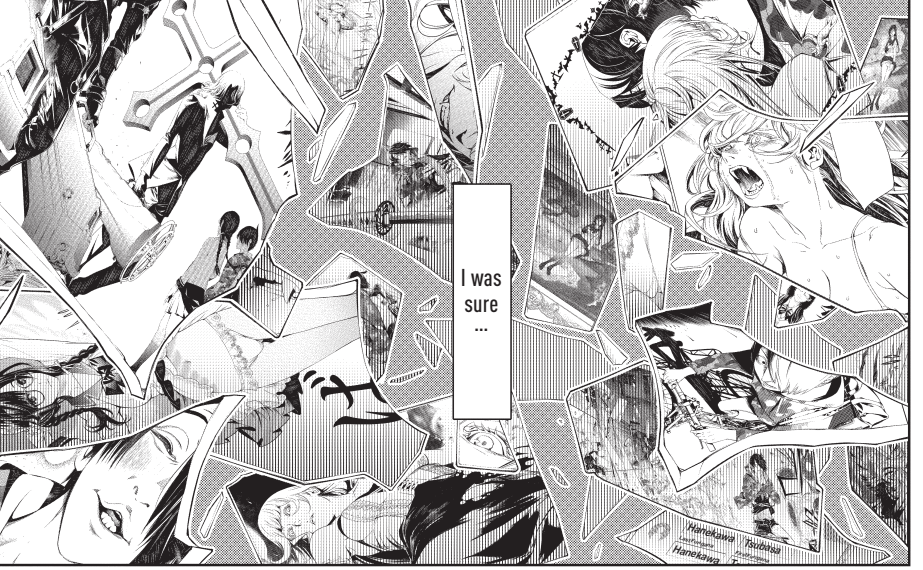
化 bake

物 mono

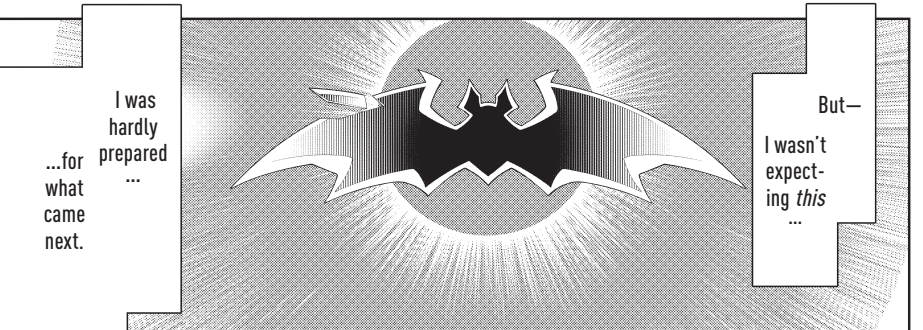
KOYOMIvamp

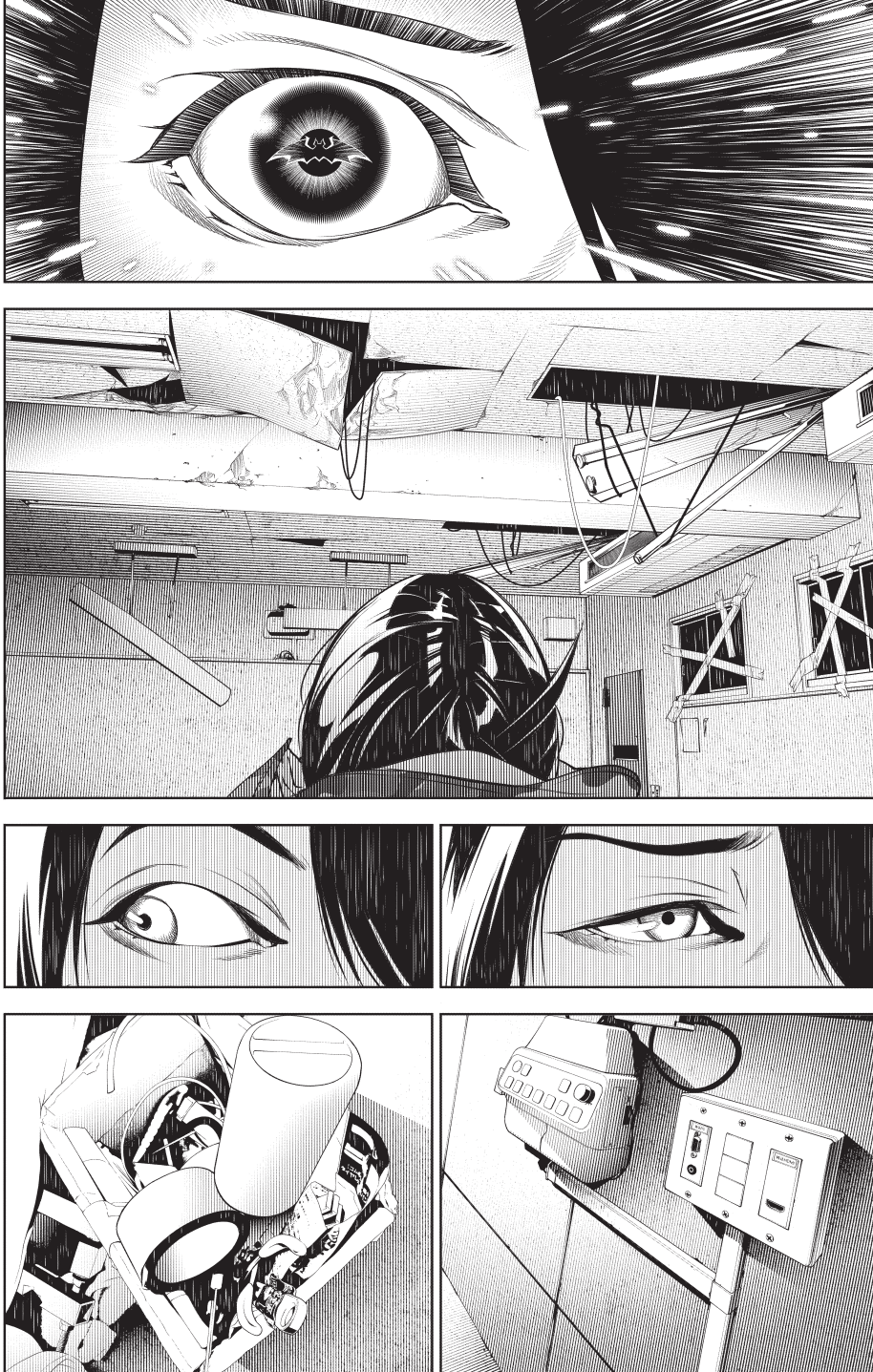
9

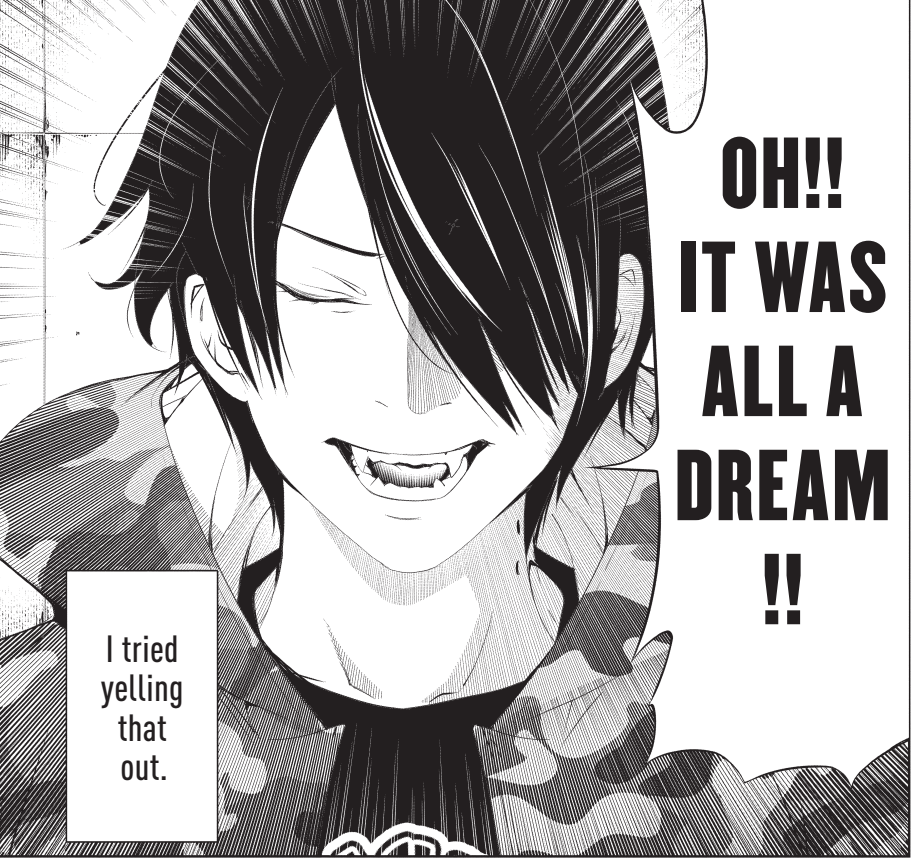
語 gatari


I was sure ...

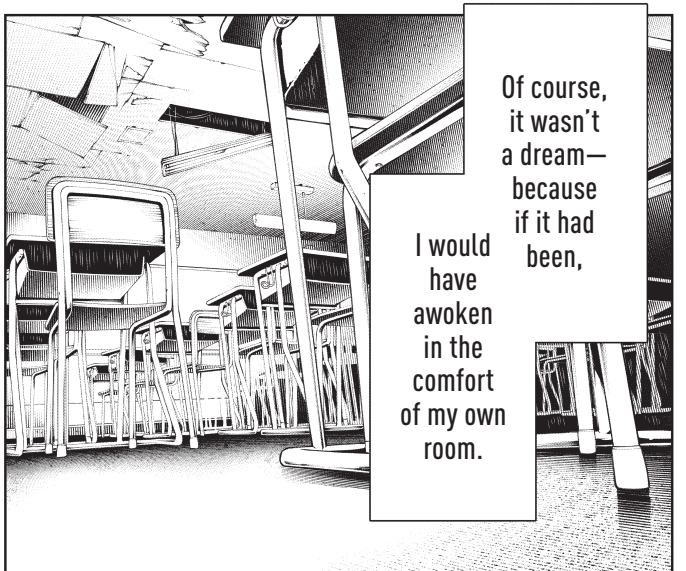
...that this would result in my death.
A happy ending to my life.
It *seemed* like the logical outcome of giving away all the blood in your body.


But— I wasn't expecting *this* ...
I was hardly prepared ...
...for what came next.

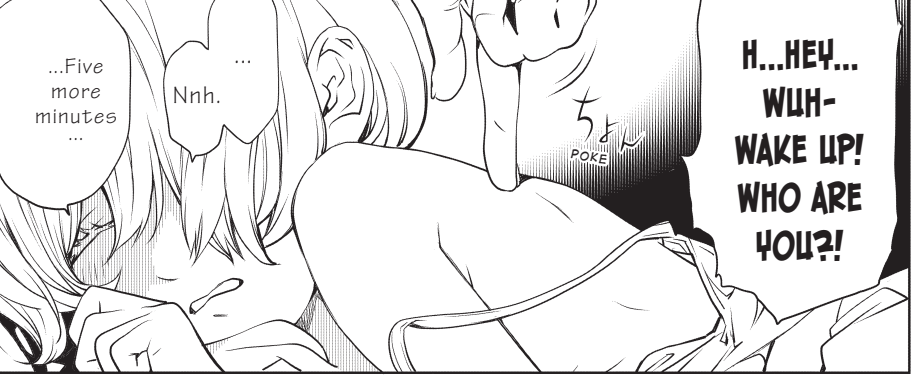



OH!! IT WAS ALL A DREAM !!
I tried yelling that out.

What is this place? ...An abandoned building?
...


Of course, it wasn't a dream— because if it had been,
I would have awoken in the comfort of my own room.

HUU
はあああああああああ
UUU
?あ
UNH?!

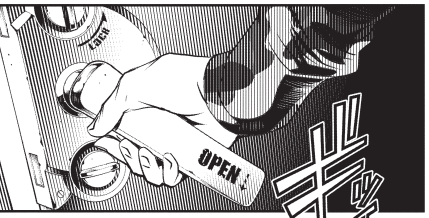

...Five more minutes...
...
Nnh.
ちょん
POKE
H...HEY... WUH- WAKE UP! WHO ARE YOU?!

...WAIT, NO! I SAID, GET UP ALREADY!!
MY NOS- TRILS!
GNNNNH!!
FWOOF

...Just "x" more minutes.
HOW MUCH LONGER IS THAT?!
4.6 billion years or so?
THAT'D BE ENOUGH TIME TO CREATE ANOTHER EARTH!

She's about... ten years old? Blonde... Pale skin. ...Maybe she's not Japanese?
Wait, putting that aside for now,
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
the phrase "alone in an abandoned building with a young girl I don't know" has an impossibly criminal scent to it...
I'm innocent... I have to be, right...?
It's ... 4:32 PM.
So bright ...!
Hm?
Did I set my phone's backlight to be this bright?
16:32
March 28
Oh. Still afternoon...
However hands-off my parents might be, two nights without any contact is pushing it.
Where's the exit... Up here?
Huh ?!
Crap !!
KLAT
M...March 28?! Two days have passed already...?!

A cram school, I guess.
Oh... So this is a school.
In other words, those panties weren't just a dream.
I have Hanekawa's contact information on my phone.

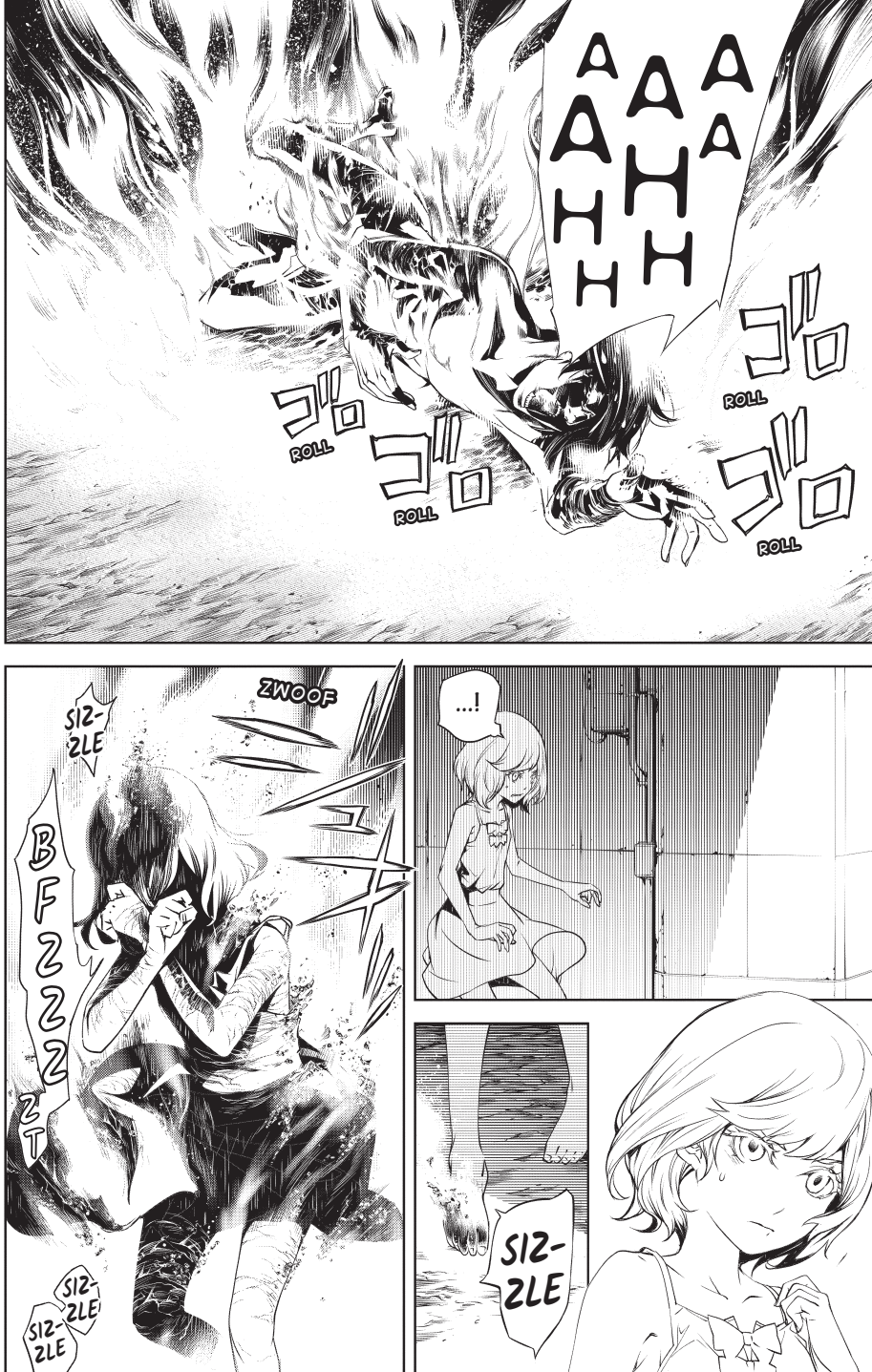

OPEN
KREEEAK

Ngh...

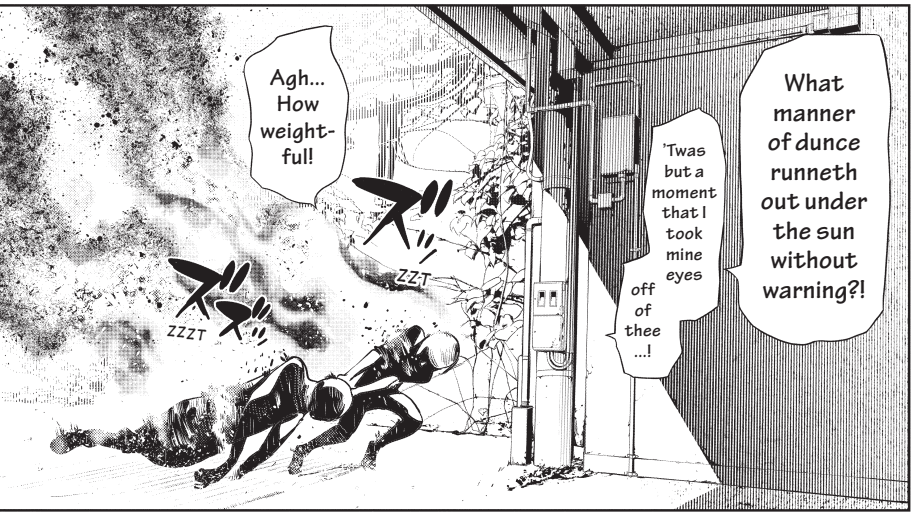
So I definitely bought that youth-oriented magazine on women's fashion, too.
I have less money in my wallet, and I have a receipt.
KRUNCH
KRUNCH
My memories had been slightly altered.

BWOOF
Huh?

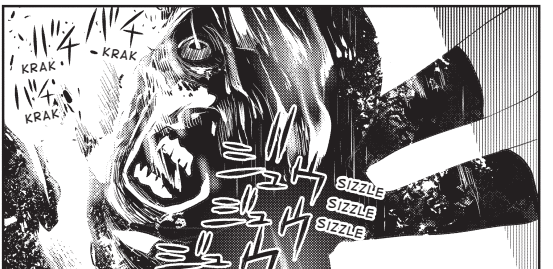
KRAK
KRAK
KRAKL
ZWOOF
?!!
...?
HYAA-
AAA-
AAA-
AGH
PYA-
AA-
AGH
Tch!

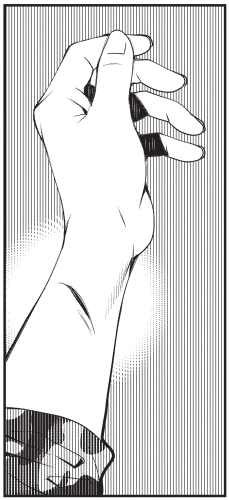

AAAHHHAAAHHH
ゴロ
ROLL
ゴロ
ROLL
ゴロ
ROLL
ゴロ
ROLL
...!
SIZ-ZLE
ZWOOF
SIZ-ZLE
BFZZZZZT
SIZ-ZLE
SIZ-ZLE

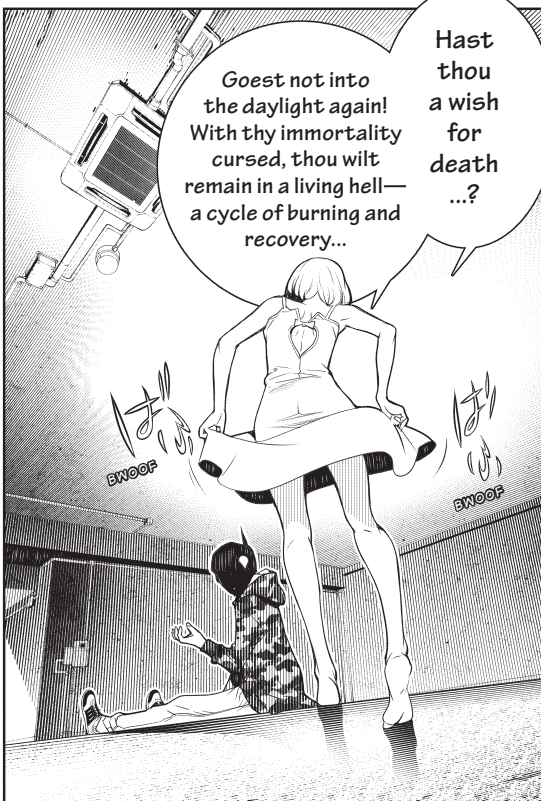
YOU FOOL !!!
FZZT
FZZT
FZZT


What manner of dunce runneth out under the sun without warning?!
'Twas but a moment that I took mine eyes off of thee ...!
Agh... How weight-ful!
ZZZT
ZZZT

SST


KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE



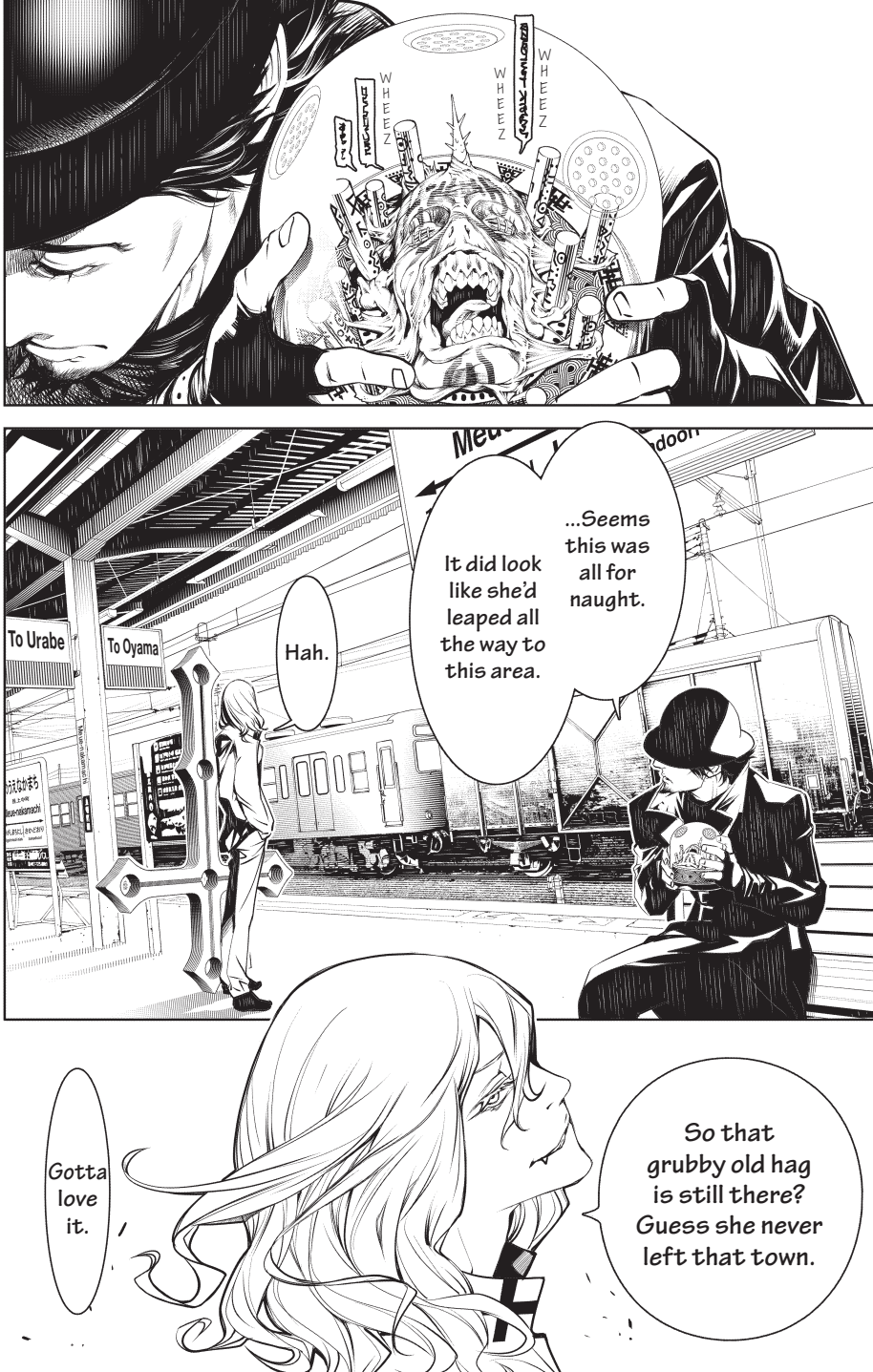


The look in her eyes seemed to chide me for stating the obvious.

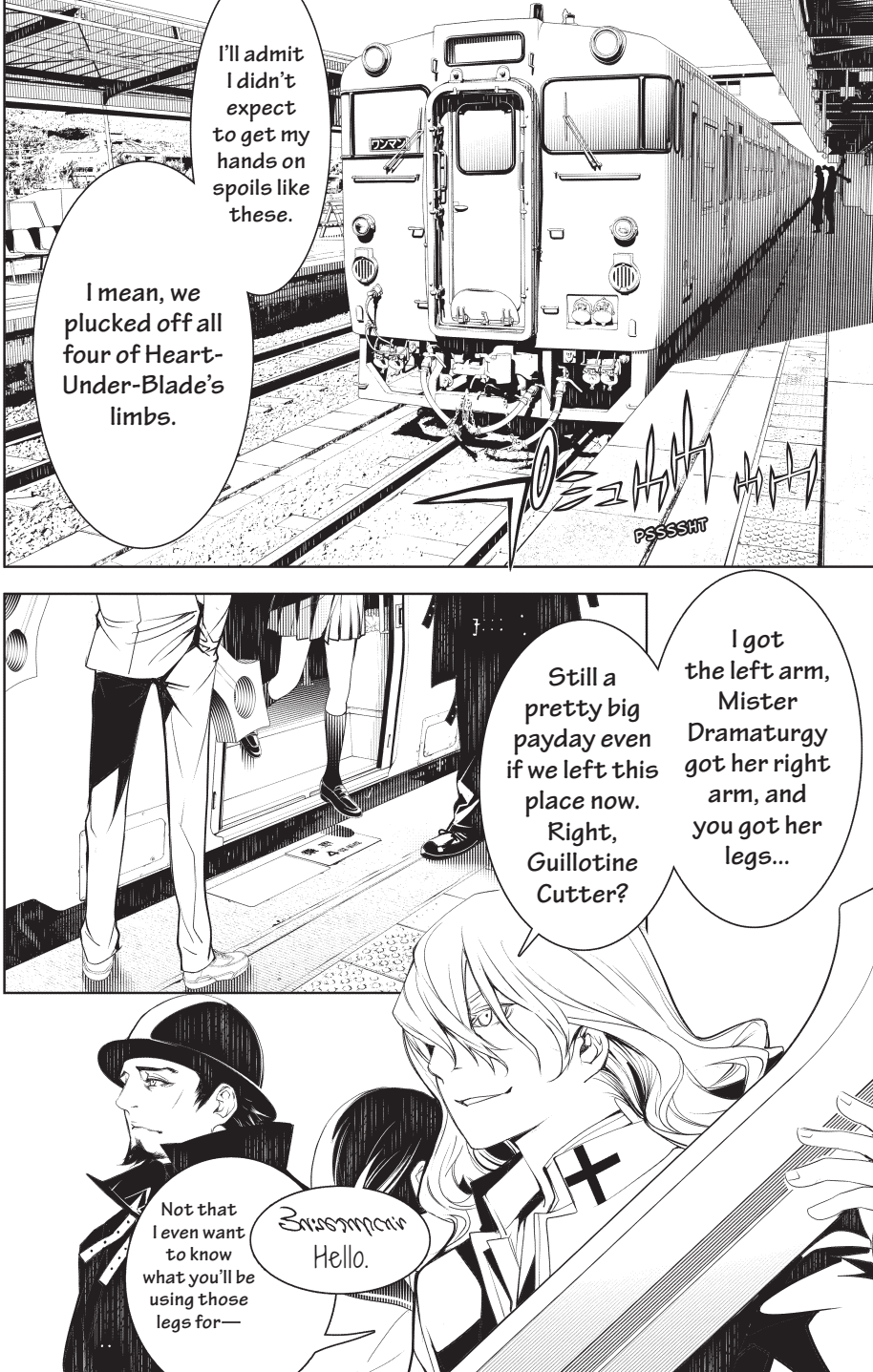
And then— she laughed.

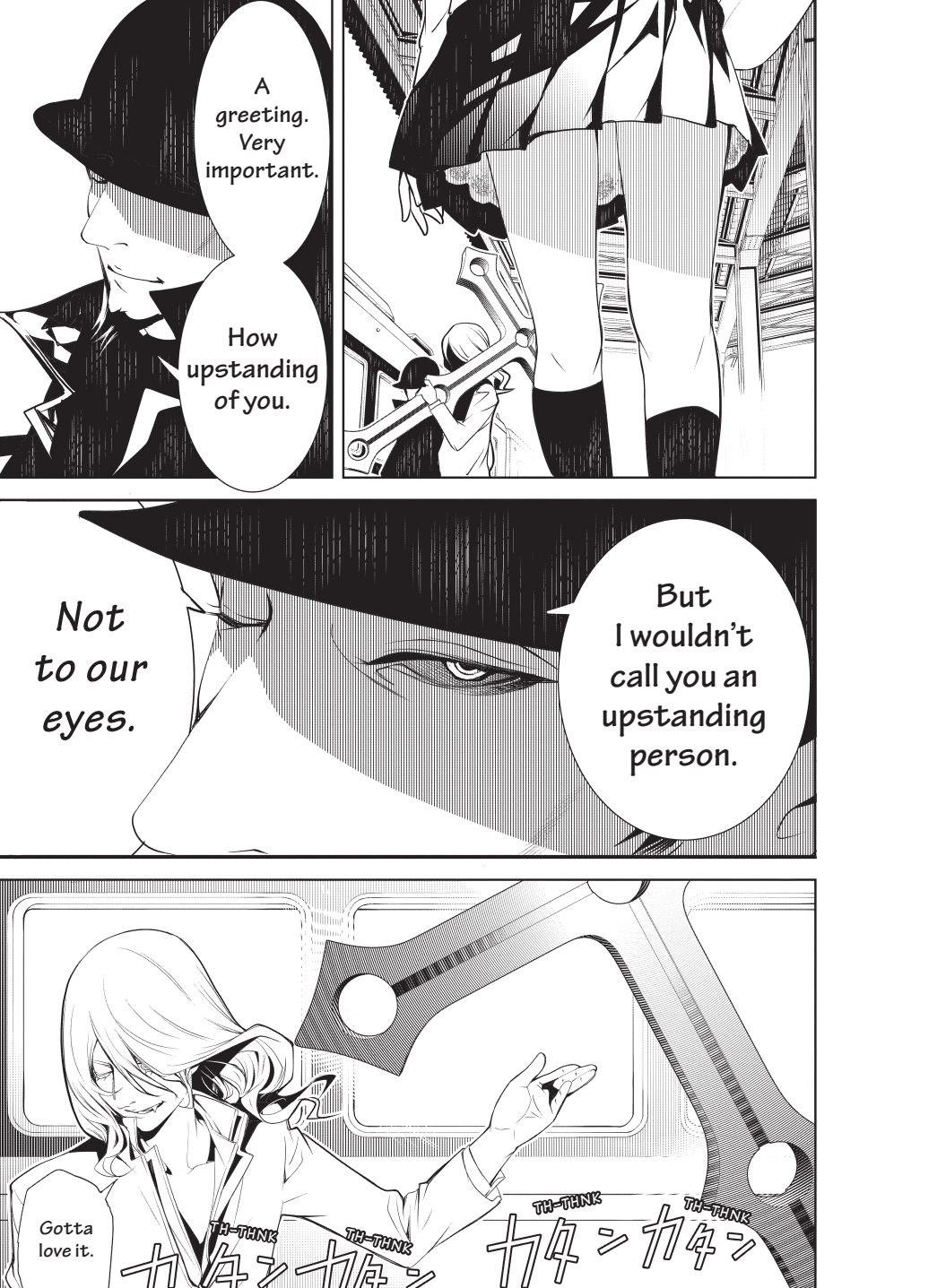
My thrall.

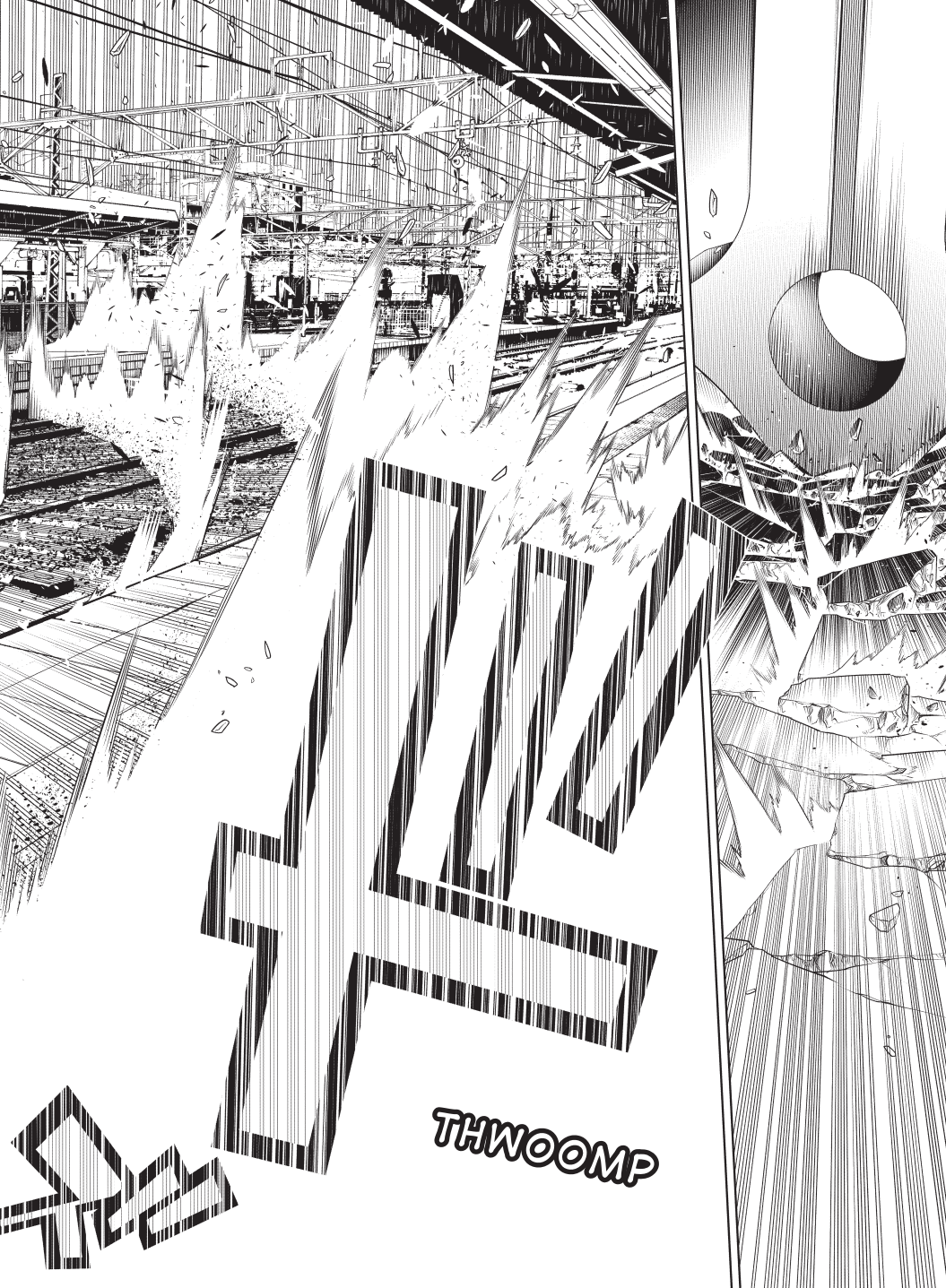
Welcome to the world of the night.
She laughed.
It was a spine-chilling cackle.

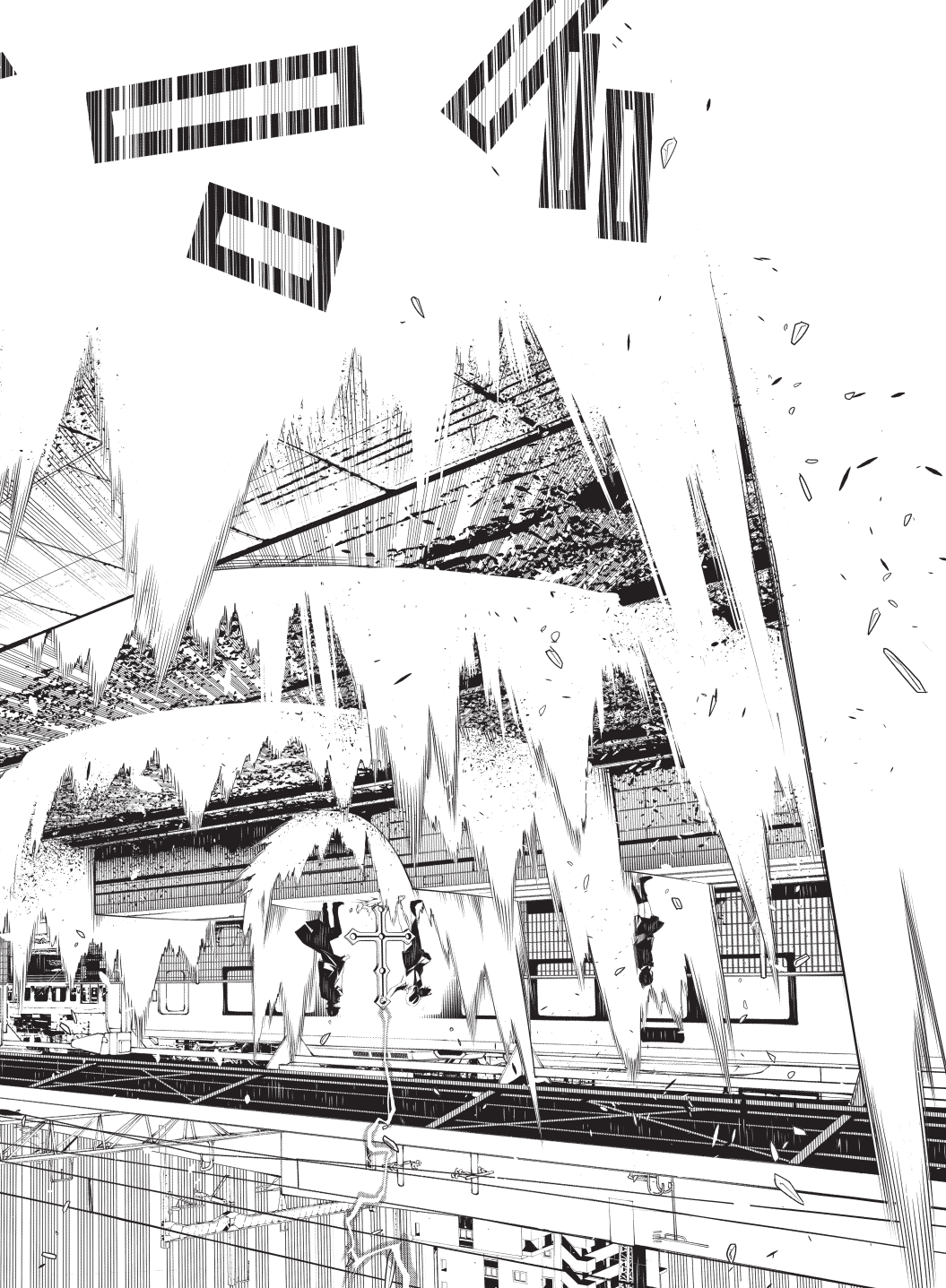

WHEEZ
WHEEZ
WHEEZ
To Urabe
To Oyama
Hah.
It did look like she'd leaped all the way to this area.
...Seems this was all for naught.
So that grubby old hag is still there? Guess she never left that town.
Gotta love it.

BMMF
She's on the brink of death... But in this case,
there may be something in the way—like a barrier of some sort. Perhaps she's in a special building.
It'll be hard to capture her like this.
Still... The signal I'm getting is very weak.
That so?
Whatever. I'm fine with calling it here myself.
PRRRRRRING
Hah.
BAM
トン
THMP
You may never get another chance like this in your entire life, even if you live for centuries,
Episode.
1


I'll admit I didn't expect to get my hands on spoils like these.
I mean, we plucked off all four of Heart-Under-Blade's limbs.
PSSSSHT
I got the left arm, Mister Dramaturgy got her right arm, and you got her legs...
Still a pretty big payday even if we left this place now. Right, Guillotine Cutter?
Hello.
Not that I even want to know what you'll be using those legs for—


A greeting. Very important.
How upstanding of you.
Not to our eyes.
But I wouldn't call you an upstanding person.
Gotta love it.
TH-THINK
TH-THINK
TH-THINK
TH-THINK
カタンカタン
カタンカタン


THWOOMP



Little Miss Melons.
BZZT
Hold up there.
BZZT
BLOOP

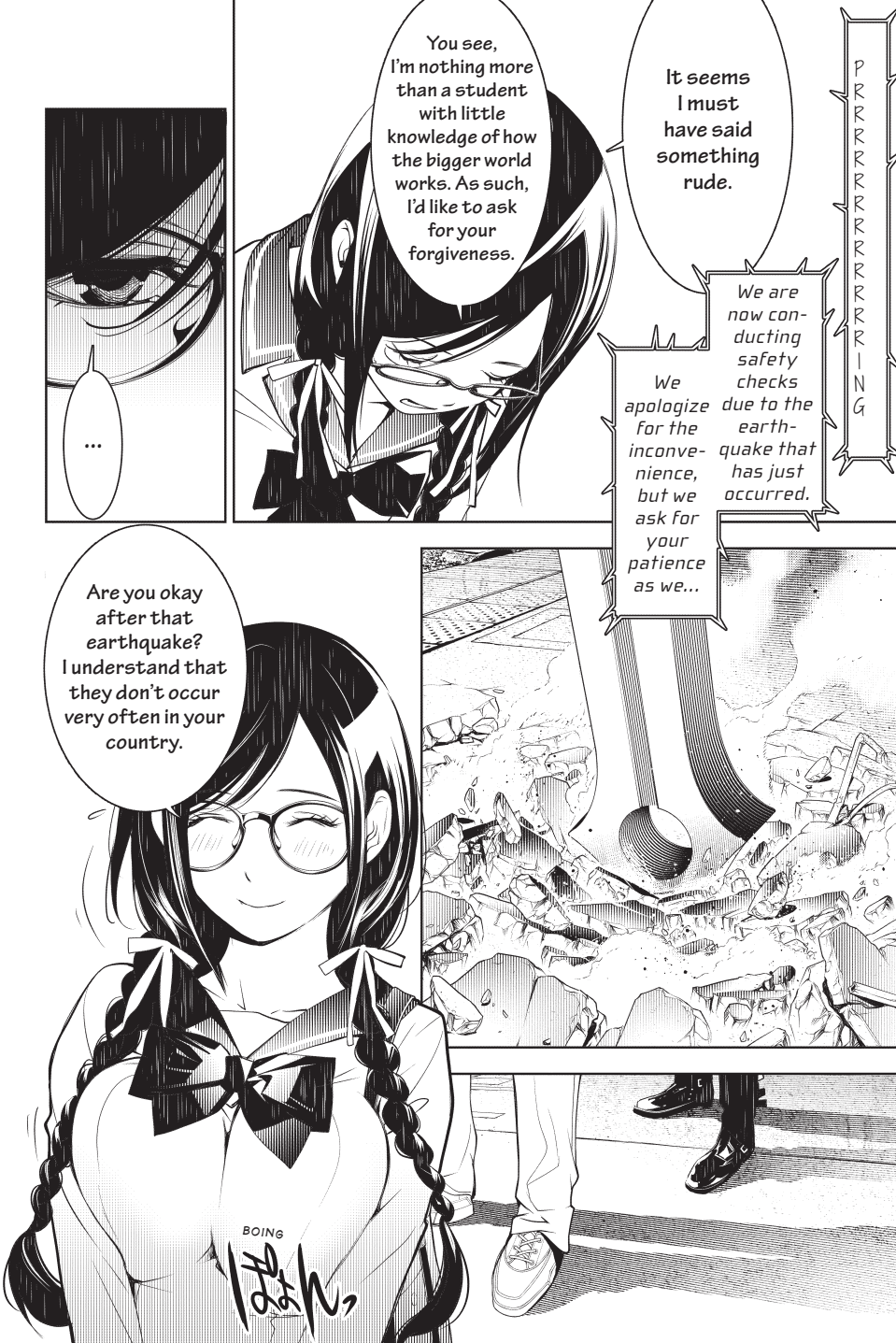
R G M B
A
I A Θ
K
T
N
9 E
A

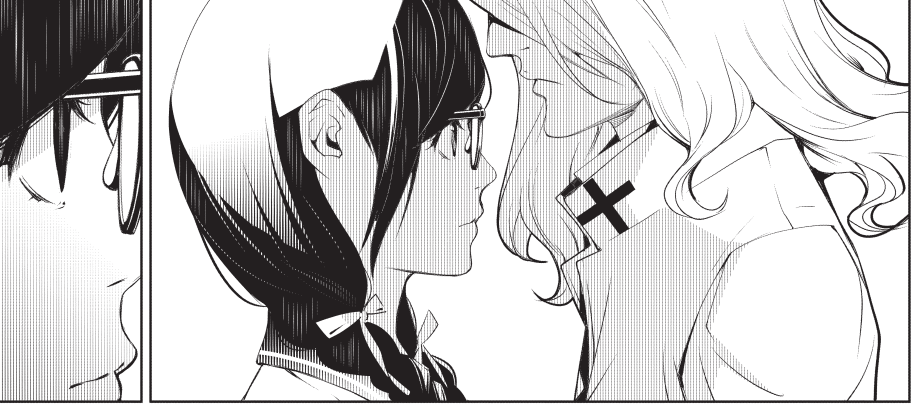
Θ

R G M B
A
I A O
T K
N
9 E
A

O

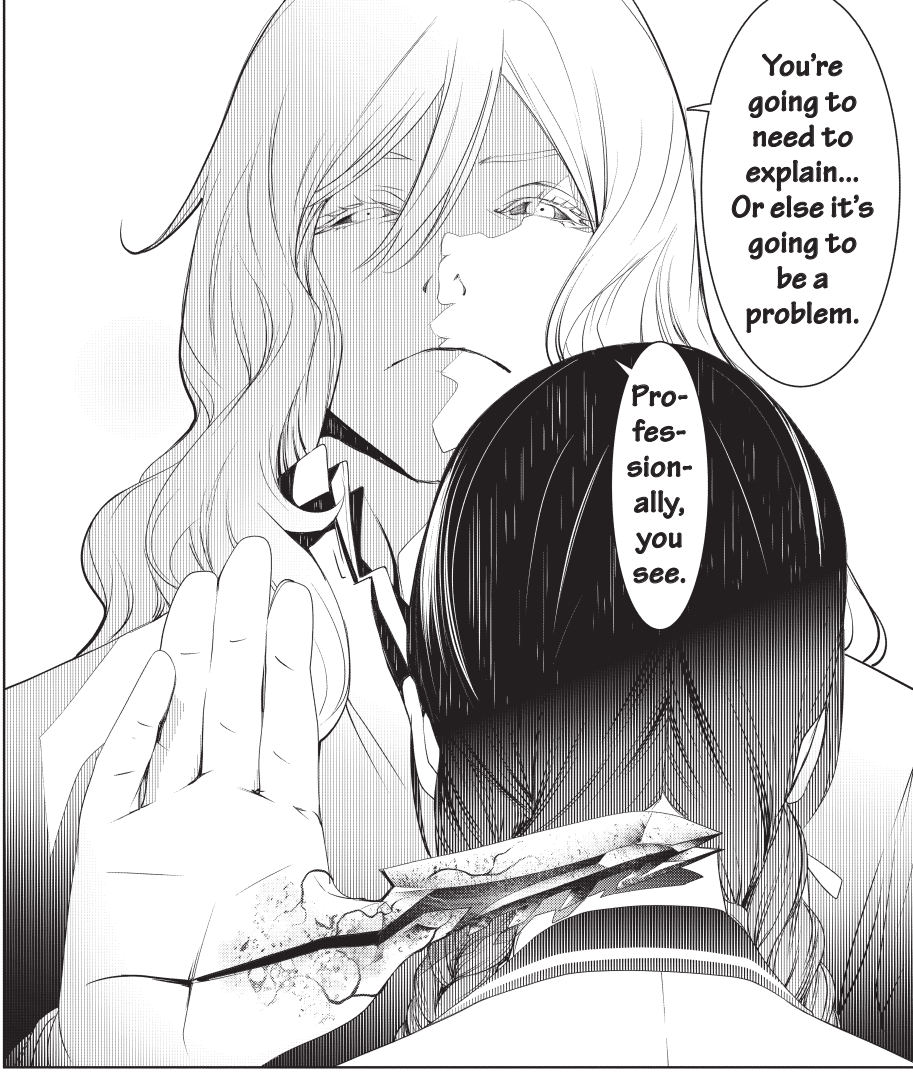
205RNM2
-PK
205RNO2
-PK
I'm very sorry.
めうえなかまち
Mieue-nakamachi

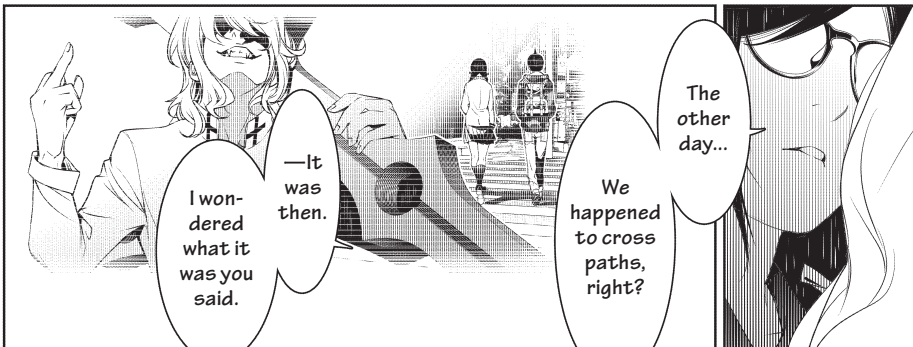

PRRRRRRRRRRRING
We are now conducting safety checks due to the earthquake that has just occurred.
We apologize for the inconvenience, but we ask for your patience as we...
It seems I must have said something rude.
You see, I'm nothing more than a student with little knowledge of how the bigger world works. As such, I'd like to ask for your forgiveness.
...
Are you okay after that earthquake? I understand that they don't occur very often in your country.
BOING



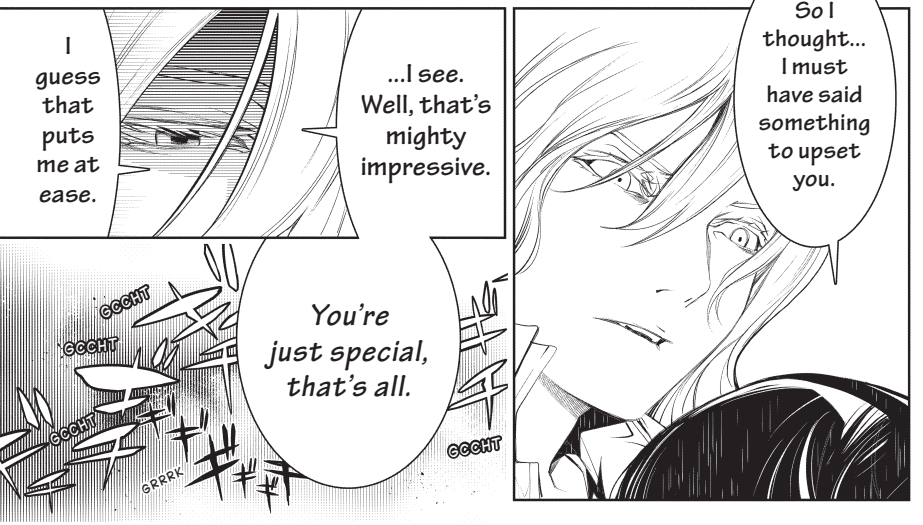
So you know about that.
How'd you figure I'm from that particular country?

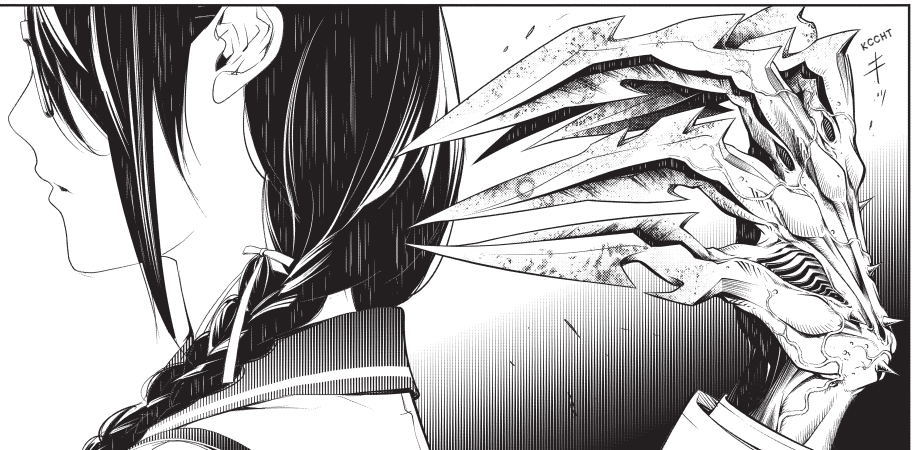
What was it?
Is there a map with a big X on it stuck to my face or something?
Everyone east of India looks the exact same to me.
So how the hell were you able to pinpoint a country as minor as that one?


You're going to need to explain... Or else it's going to be a problem.
Pro-fes-sion-ally, you see.


The other day...
We happened to cross paths, right?
—It was then.
I won-dered what it was you said.

“Fucking slut.”

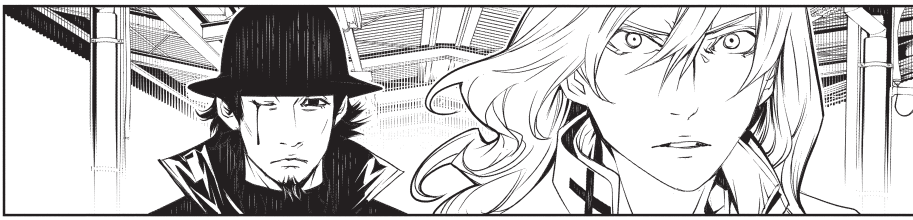


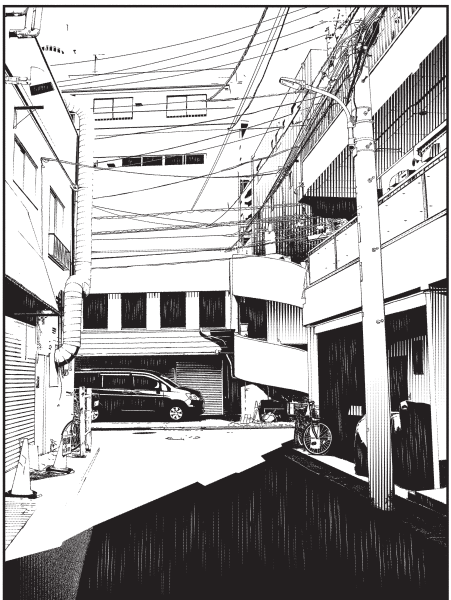


Could you wait a moment, Episode?
ZZZT
I also have a question for the young lady there.
Of course, it's the same thing I ask everyone I meet for the first time.
Hey.
Since when were you and I ever friendly enough to let you do this?

JAKK
"What's the difference between a man and a monkey?"
You have five seconds to answer.
Your answer?
FIVE-FOUR-THREE-TWO-ONE —
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND

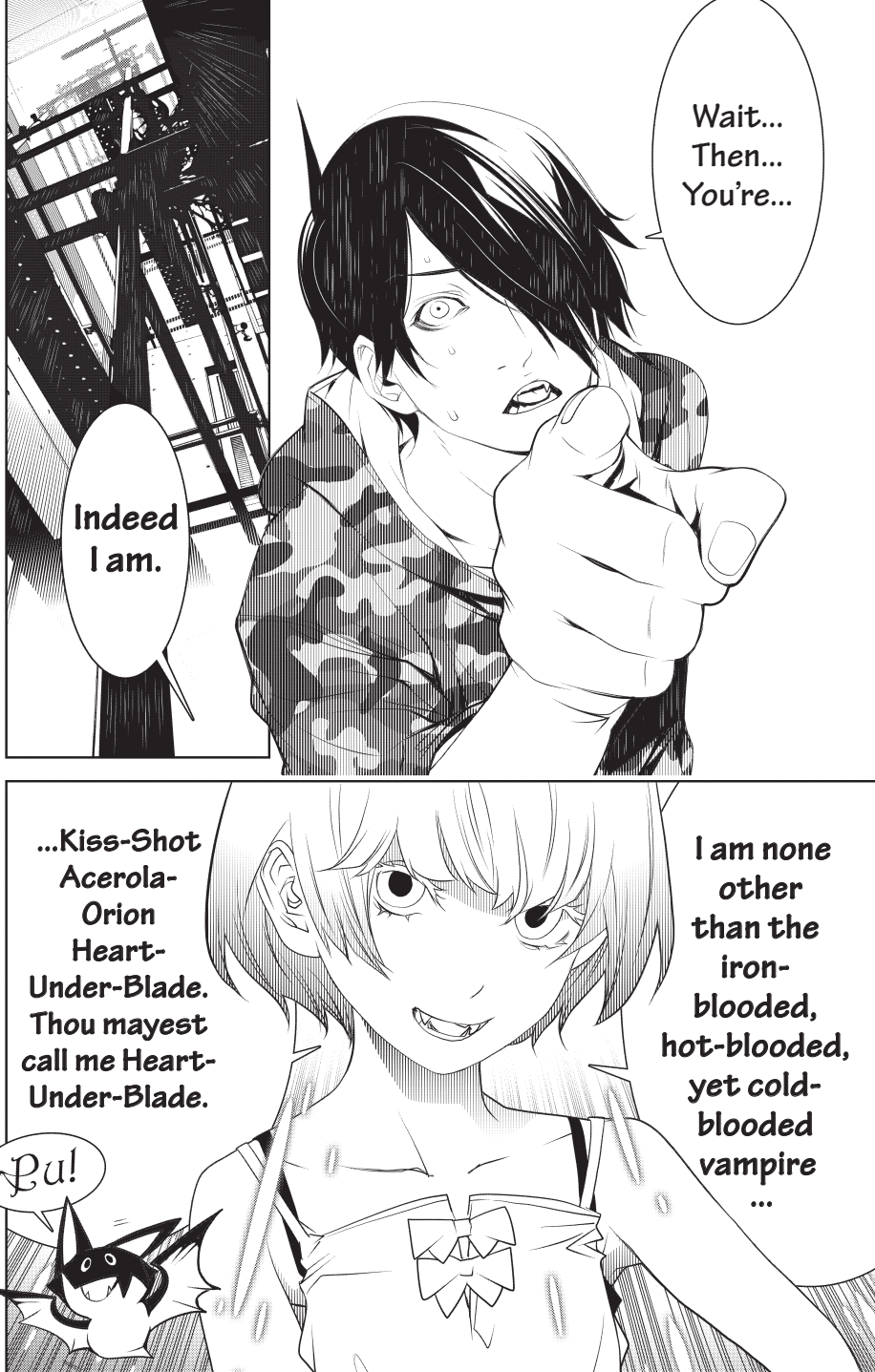
Coming right up— after a word from our sponsor.





めうえなかまち
Mouenakamachi
ひがしまちにし
Understood.
YOU'RE TAKING THAT AS AN ANSWER?!

SKREEK
SKREEK
SKREEK
SKREEK
DRA-MA-TUR-GY.
And
GUIL-LO-TINE CUT-TER.
EPI-SODE.
LUNKHEAD
GLOOMY
DUMMY
DRAMATURGY
GUILLOT
EPISODE
Pu!
They are the ones who took my limbs from me.


Wait...
Then...
You're...
Indeed
I am.
...Kiss-Shot
Acerola-
Orion
Heart-
Under-Blade.
Thou mayest
call me Heart-
Under-Blade.
I am none
other
than the
iron-
blooded,
hot-blooded,
yet cold-
blooded
vampire
...
Pu!

LUNKHEAD
DRAMATURGY
GLOOMY
GUILLOTINE CUTTER
DUMMY
EPISODE
And... who's that little guy there?
Hm.
Thou art unaware?
This is Batty, mine adorable mascot.
WHAT KIND OF HALF-ASSED MASCOT IS THAT?!
It seemed natural to introduce him here, and I was told it would appeal to the masses.
FWAP
FWAP
FWAP
TOLD BY WHOM?!
But now that I give it more thought, we need not rely on such creatures amidst my presence.
BOOM
PYAAAGH
Begone.
WUH...WAIT, HOLD ON A SECOND! NOW I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE WE NEED HIM AROUND!
YOU KNOW, IT'S KINDA... DREARY IN HERE! BRING HIM OUT!
I shan't.
C'MON, BRING HIM OUT! YOU EVEN GAVE HIM A NAME AND EVERYTHING!
Never-more.

Thy blood alone was not nearly enough.
I was able to at least form these limbs, but they are empty inside...
And wait... Kiss-Shot.
Why do you look like that in the first place?
Huh ?
That's way too long. I'd trip over the name twice before I was done.
...
Kiss-Shot?
Did I not tell thee to call me Heart-Under-Blade?
TRIP
TRIP
TRIP
I've no reason to refuse.
If that is what pleases thee, then so be it.
Yes... I suppose thou mayest.
What... so I can't call you that?
...
Well ...

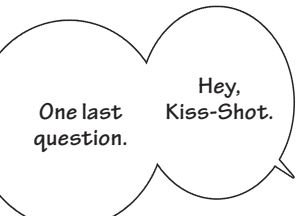
That said, don't thou dare get carried away, servant.
...
Ser-vant ?!
Even in this state, I am a legendary vampire who has now lived for five hundred years!
A newly born vampire such as thou would have no right to speak to me even if I was not thy master!
Mas-ter ?!
...
Uh ...
Right ...
Some-how, I don't really mind that...
I wonder why that is...?
What is the matter ?
Thou saved my life— rescued me.
And that is why I will grant thee permission to address me in a manner so uncouth and disparaging.
But I will make clear who the superior one is here!

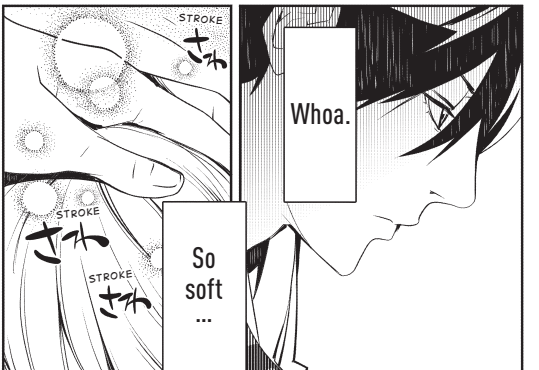
ZMF
As proof of thy sub-mission to me, stroke my head.
...
Strok-ing your head ...
...proves my sub-mission to you ...?
Dost thou not even know that?!
How ignorant.

PAT
ナデ
PAT
ナデ
PAT
ナデ

It seems as though vampires operate under different rules.
STROKE
さわ
STROKE
さわ

Aye.
Very well.


Hey, Kiss-Shot.
One last question.

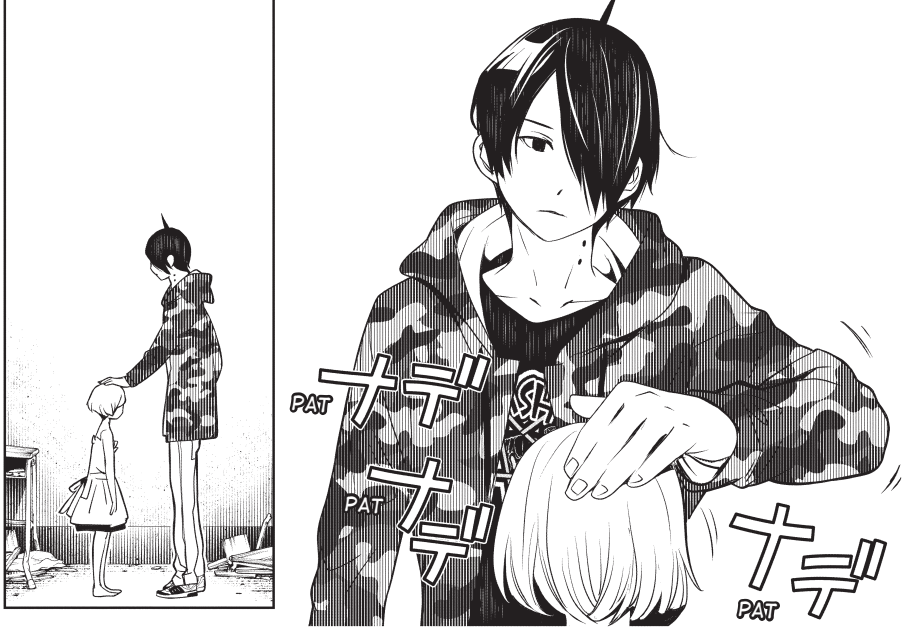

STROKE
さわ
STROKE
さわ
STROKE
さわ
Whoa.
So soft ...

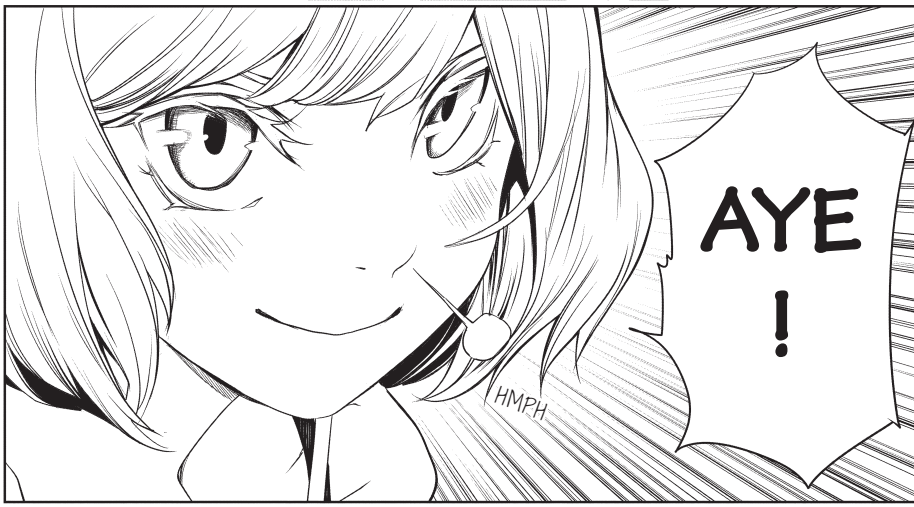
Why did you ...
...turn me into a vampire?
Can I...
...ever go back to being human?
She—
Fool !!
Dost thou not so much as understand how great an honor thou hast now?!

...
Aye, I thought thou might ask...
Or she'd find it strange—that was the kind of reaction I was expecting, but...
—would get mad at me like that, I thought ...
Once, I was invited to be a god, but I declined.
A GOD ?!
I understand how thou feelest.
Huh ?
You—understand ...?
We all feel the same desire... to remain as one is.

THP
Thou canst.
...
Upon my name, I give thee mine assur-ance.
It is possible for thou to returnest to thy human form.
Aye, possible, but...
...this work shall be given to thee as a threat.
...
Work for you ...?
MASTER
GRAT-ITUDE
To do so, thou must do a bit of work for me.
SUB-MISSION
My orders would normally go without question... But as I owe thee a debt of gratitude, rather than orders...
SERVANT

Return to me my limbs.
It will be a simple task for thee as thou art now.
Like asking the king of all beasts to hunt his prey.


PAT
ナデ
PAT
ナデ
ナデ
PAT


AYE!
HMPH

I WASN'T THINKING —!
Oh no!
AH!!

KREAK
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRG GRG GRG
JA-KLINK
...said it so matter-of-factly.
Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade...

"It is only right for monsters to be exterminated."
SHHHINK

...
What's that sound?

...

I...

can only answer with what I know.

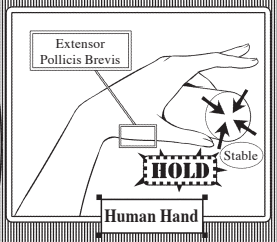
No need to worry. Depending on your answer,

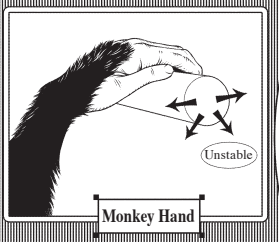
you just might find out what it is, whether you want to or not.

But the difference between a man and a monkey...

...is *a thumb*.

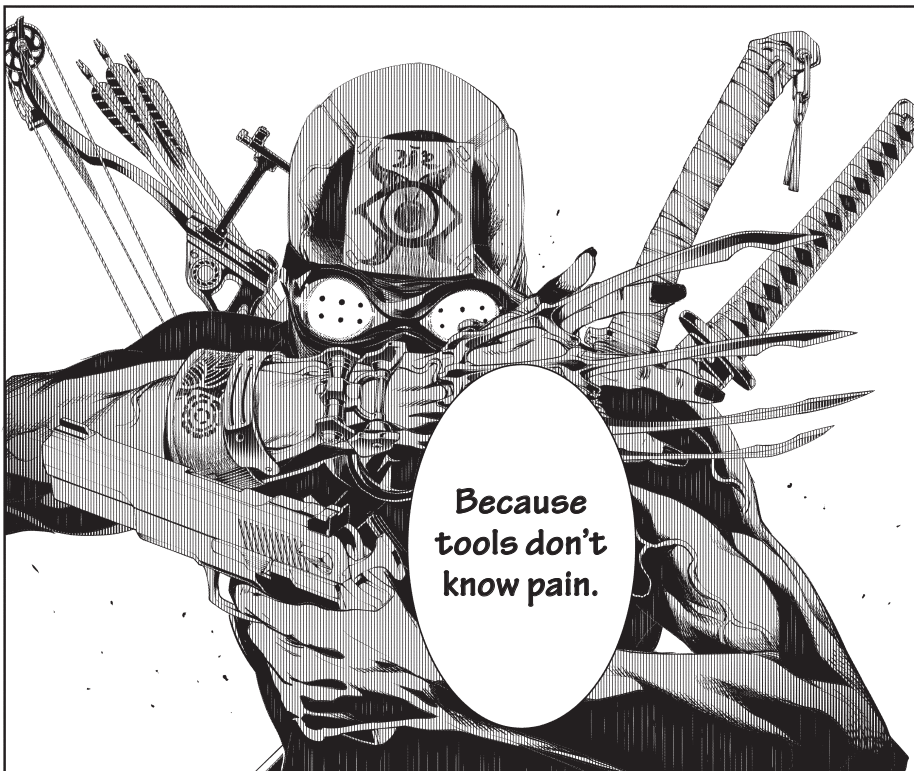
This difference is critical to being able to handle tools.

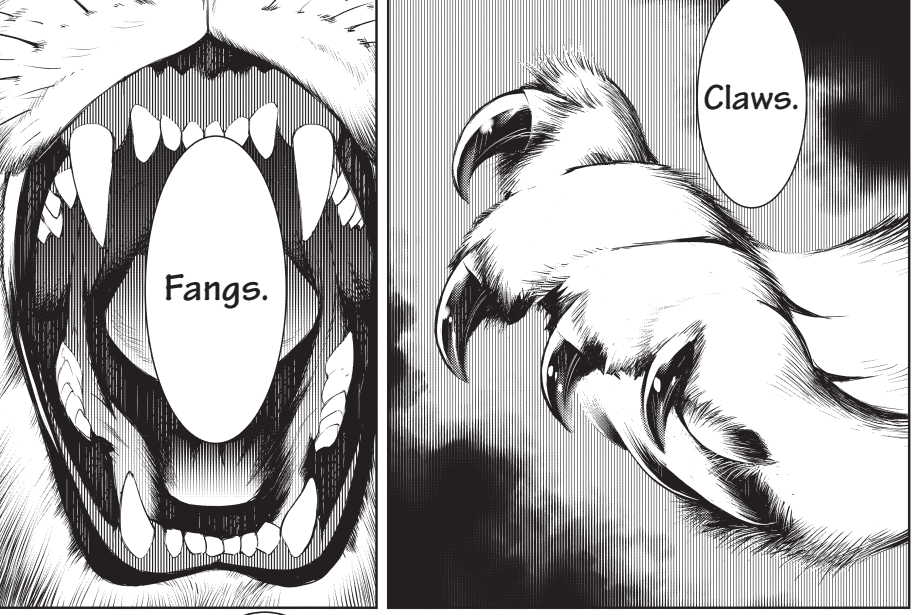




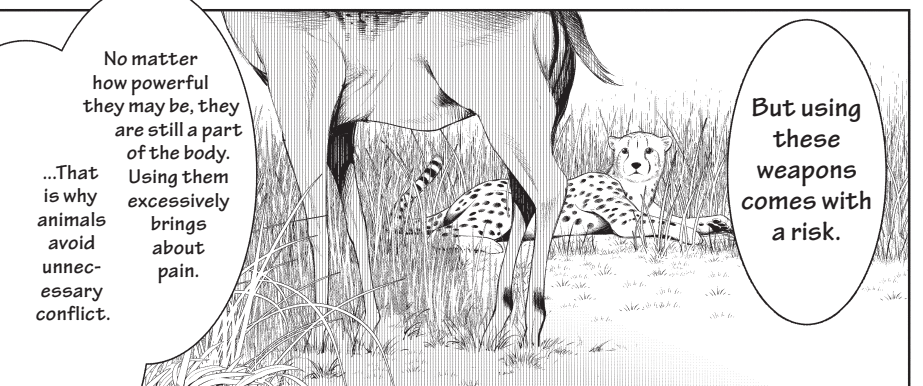
The human thumb has a muscle that monkeys lack. That muscle, known as the extensor pollicis brevis, allows humans to hold objects.

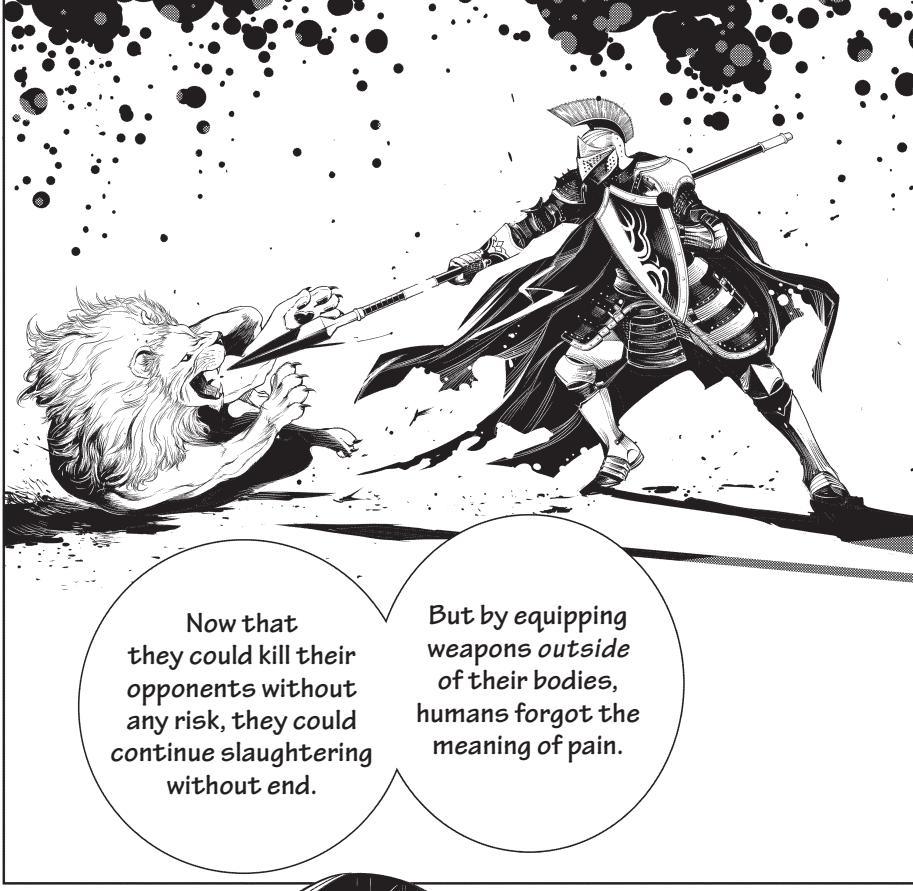
Because of this,
mankind lost what we call “pain.”


Because tools don’t know pain.


Fangs.
Claws.

They evolved to protect themselves from enemies and to feed on other lives.
Living creatures are equipped with their own kinds of powerful weapons.
Or physical abilities— or wings, or scales, or shells, or horns, or... venom.


...That is why animals avoid unnecessary conflict.
No matter how powerful they may be, they are still a part of the body. Using them excessively brings about pain.
But using these weapons comes with a risk.

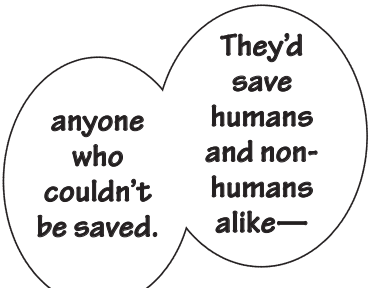

But by equipping weapons outside of their bodies, humans forgot the meaning of pain.
Now that they could kill their opponents without any risk, they could continue slaughtering without end.

All life on this planet is being subjected to the harshest trial in its history—and it's all because of a pair of thumbs.
The appearance of humans must be nothing short of a calamity for other living creatures.
That is indeed what makes us humans.
Just as power is what makes a god a god.

Very good.
It seems you're a wise woman.
In that case,
let's say someone maintained the intelligence and strength of a human—while acquiring weapons as a part of their body.
HOW WOULD THAT MAKE THEM DIFFERENT FROM A HUMAN?
Gotta love it.
...
You're not... one of them— are you?
You have shadows... And it seems like you're fine being in the sunlight...

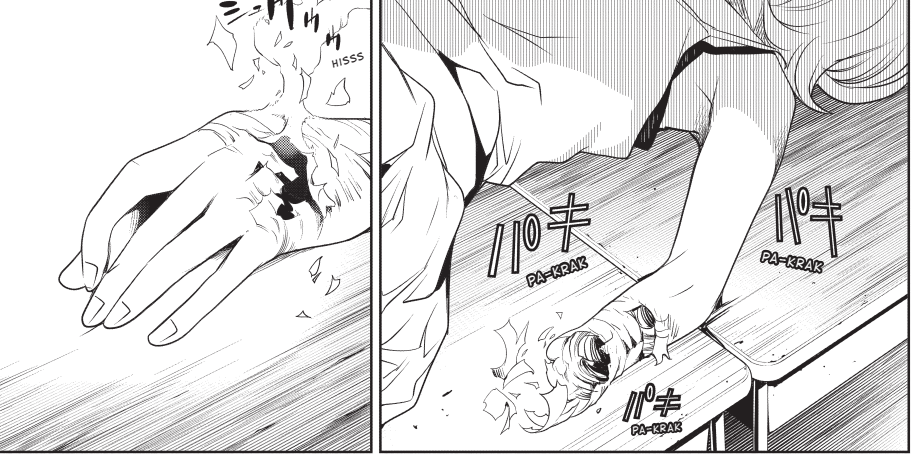
If ...
someone like that did exist...
CRUNCH
...they would still be a human being, but one that knows "pain."
CRASHER
And I imagine ...
...they would be kinder than any other.

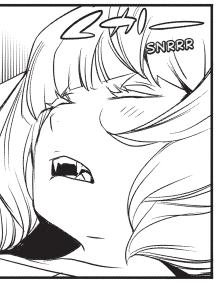
I bet they'd save all kinds of people.


They'd save humans and non-humans alike—
anyone who couldn't be saved.

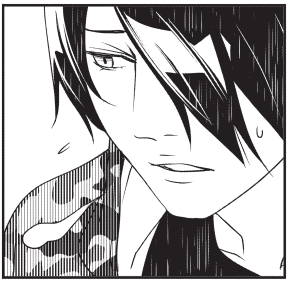
TWITCH

SNRRR
MRGH
SCATTER
SCATTER
SCATTER
TWITCH

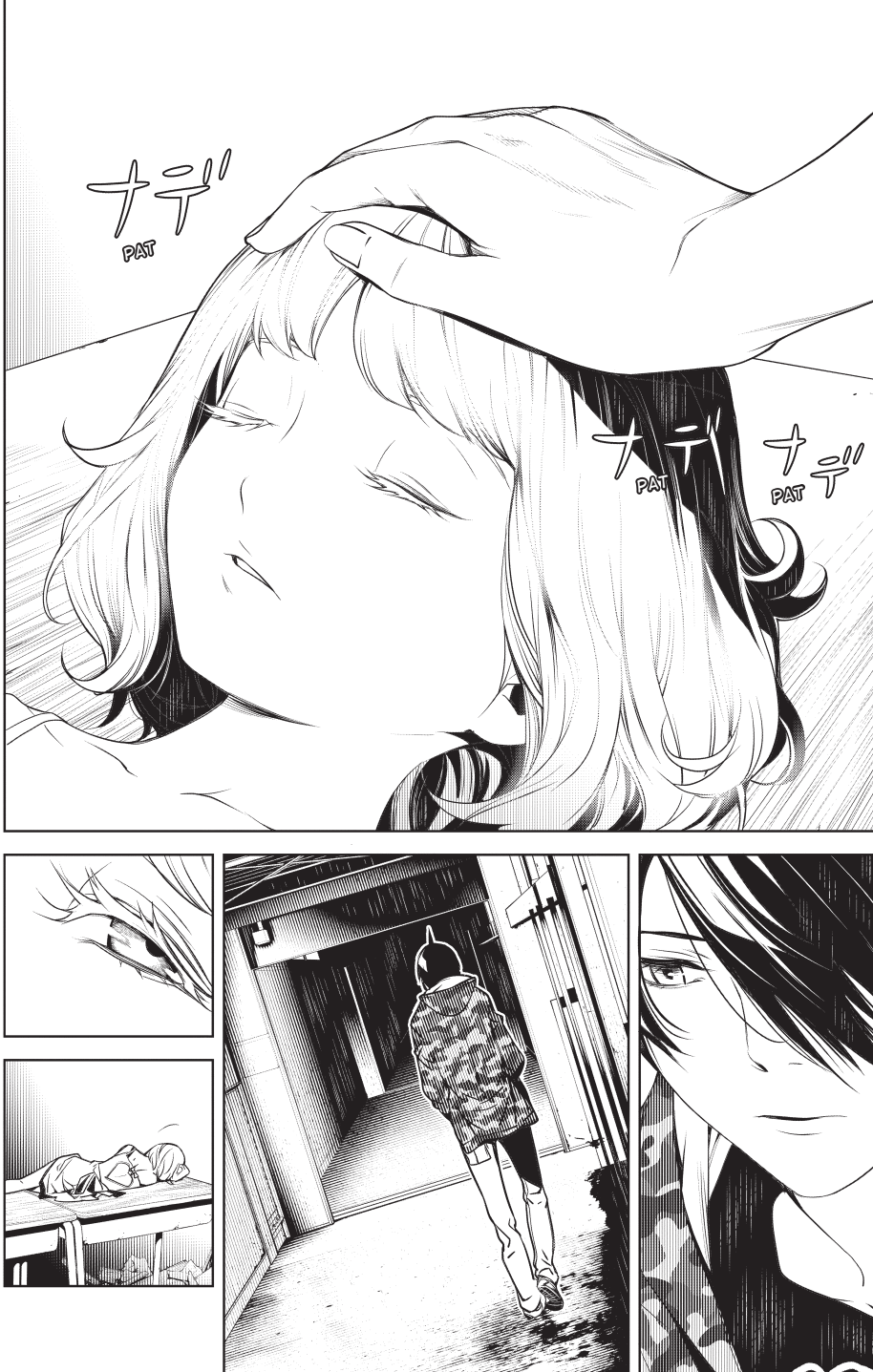

HISSS
パキ
PA-KRAK
パキ
PA-KRAK
パキ
PA-KRAK


SNRRR

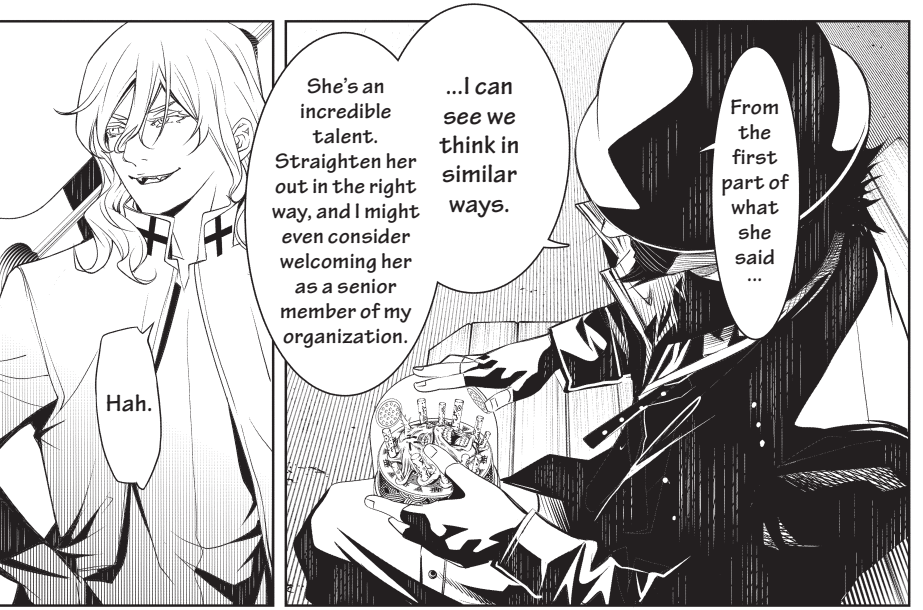
I was able to at least form these limbs, but they're empty inside...

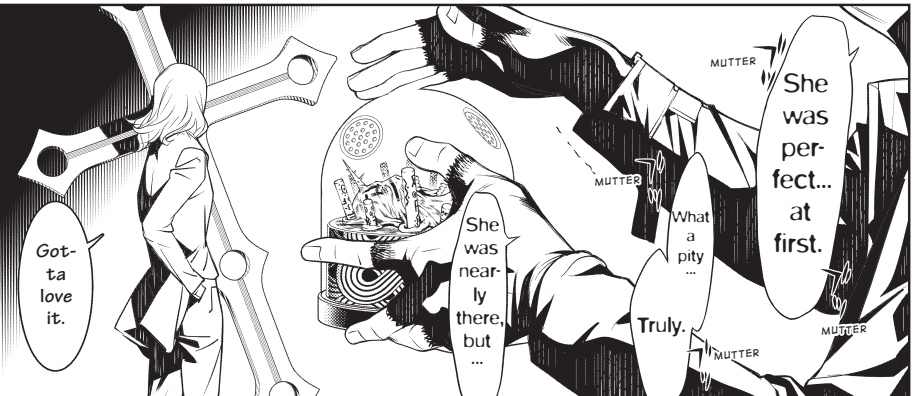


—And that's why I'd want...
...to meet that person.


ナデ
PAT
ナデ
PAT
ナデ
PAT

Urabe
To Oyama
Should we really have let her go just like that?
Her and that huge pair of hers?


From the first part of what she said ...
...I can see we think in similar ways.
She's an incredible talent. Straighten her out in the right way, and I might even consider welcoming her as a senior member of my organization.
Hah.


MUTTER
She was perfect... at first.
MUTTER
What a pity ...
MUTTER
Truly.
MUTTER
She was nearly there, but ...
Got-ta love it.

A monster, rescuing a human?!
What?!
GRRRRRRRRRKK
GRK
GRK
GRK

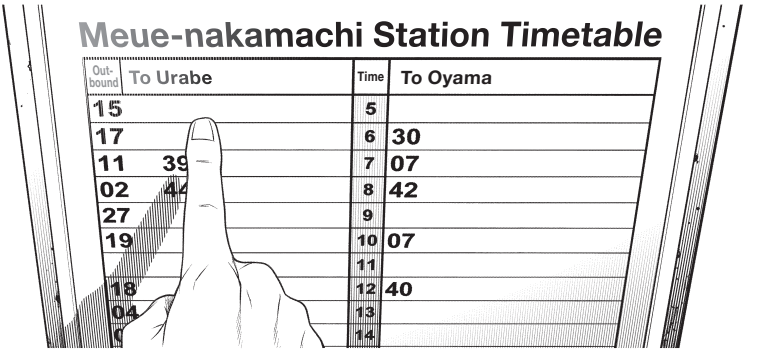
What a thoughtless thing to say!!
YAWN
An unforgivable lie! Only humans can rescue humans!
In other words, none other than I, a god, could ever...!
...
SST
Seems like she's on the move.
FIND
FOUND
FIND

—Wait.

ISSH

The time has come to settle things with that monster.

Let's go, Episode.



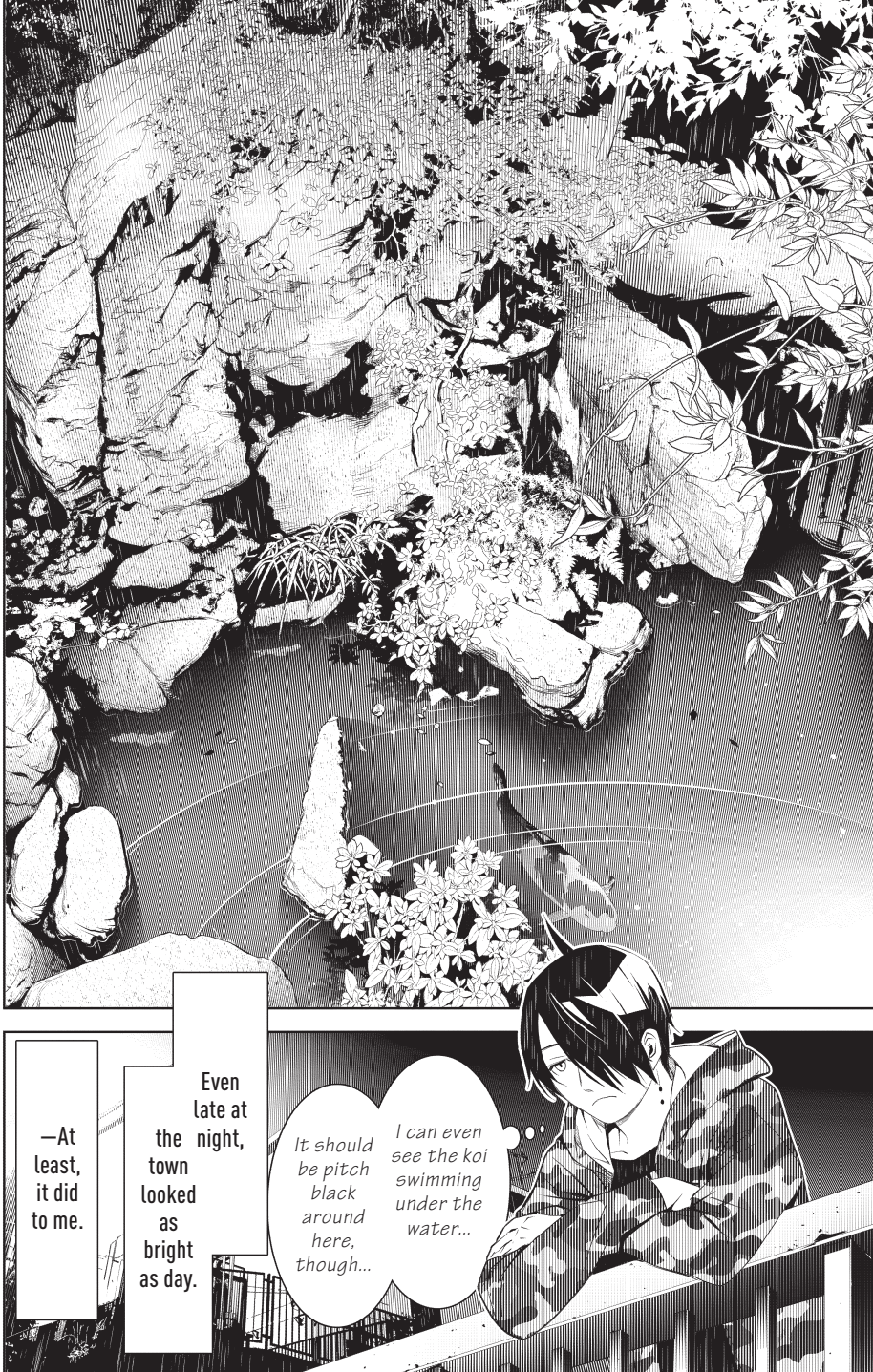
NO, YOU DON'T! WHY THE HELL'RE YOU STEALING MY CATCH-PHRASE?! DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU!

Gotta love it.

THAT'S WHY I WAS SAYING WE SHOULD'VE GOTTEN ON THE TRAIN JUST NOW!

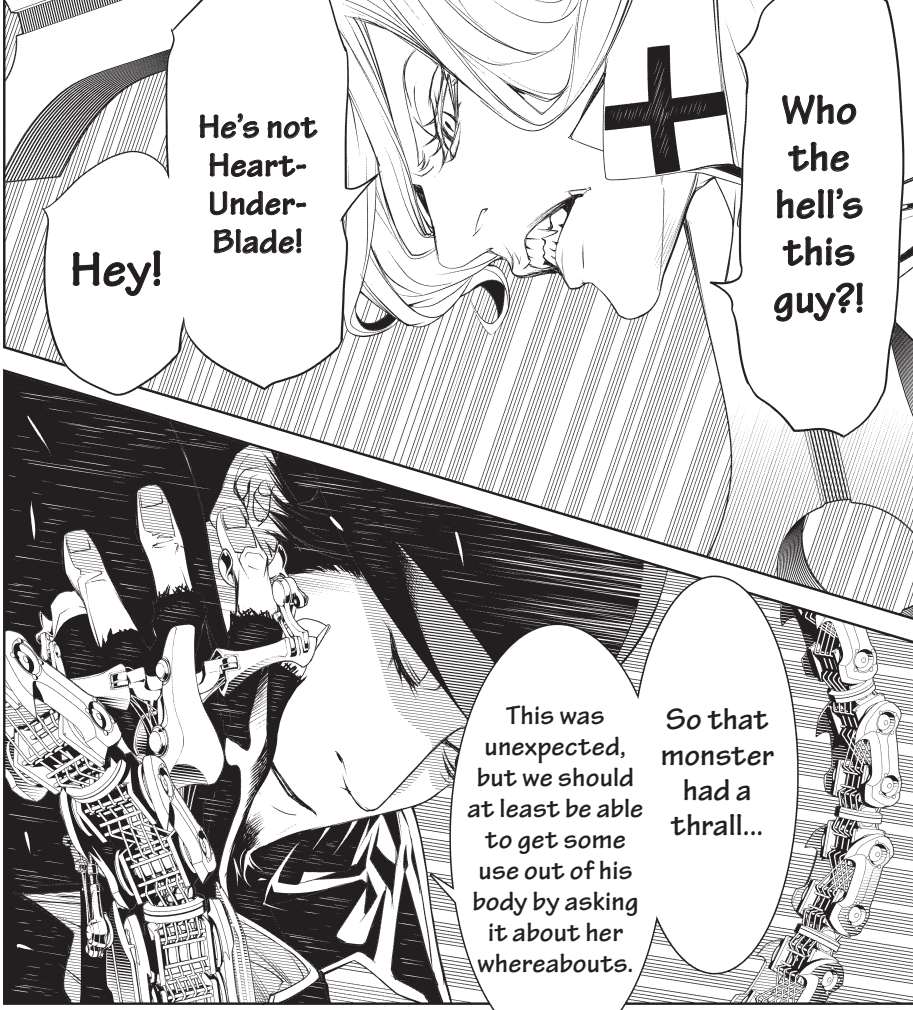
THE NEXT TRAIN DOESN'T COME FOR ANOTHER HOUR!

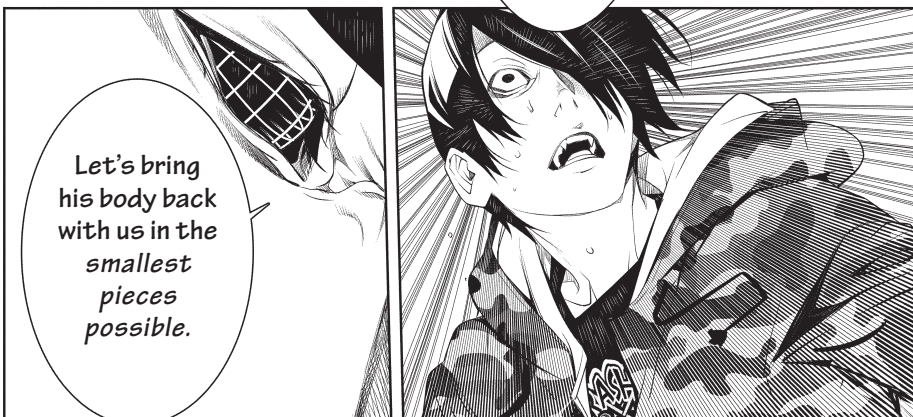
DAMN THIS STUPID, BACKWATER TOWN!

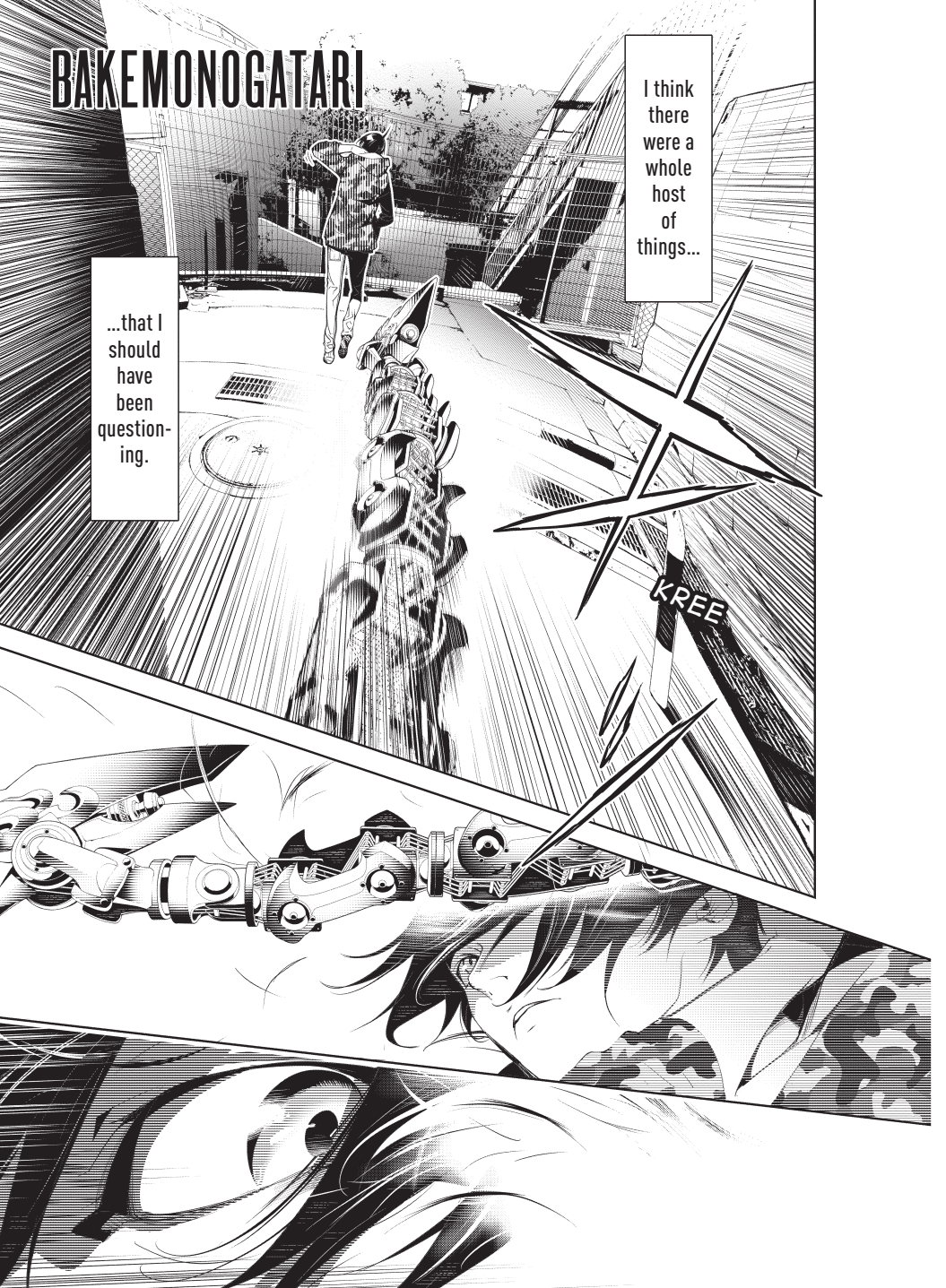

I can even see the koi swimming under the water...
It should be pitch black around here, though...
Even late at night, the town looked as bright as day.
—At least, it did to me.

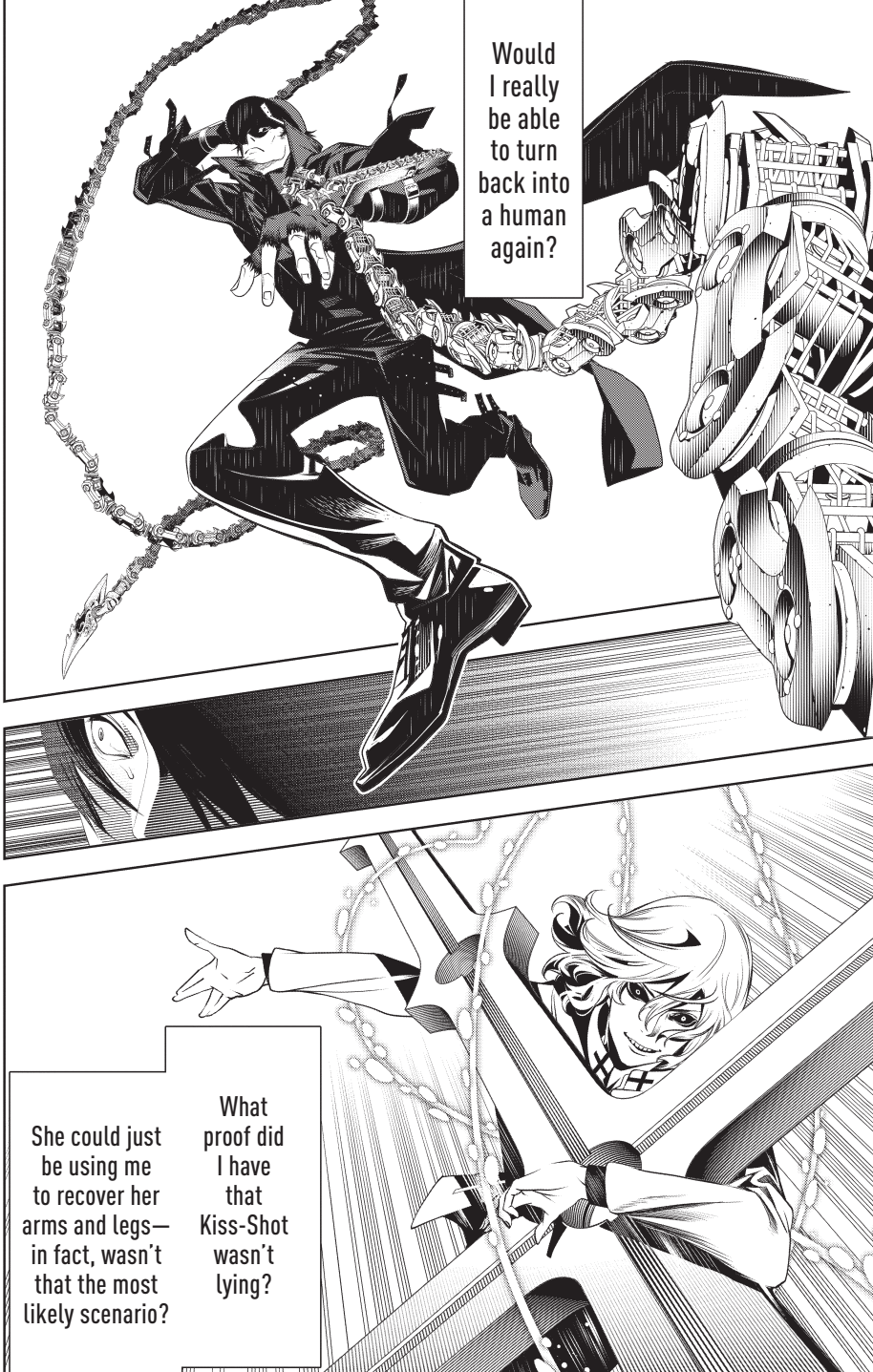
According to Kiss-Shot...
...she needed to get her limbs back and return to full power to turn me back into a human.
She made it sound so easy—like I'd just stumble into them somehow...
And that the whole thing would probably get settled before tomorrow, but...
Putting aside the question of whether or not I can go back to being a human...
SIGH
はあ...
KRAK
After seeing ...
those arms of hers...
CHHK
CHHK
BWOOF

CRASH


Who the hell's this guy?!
He's not Heart-Under-Blade!
Hey!
So that monster had a thrall...
This was unexpected, but we should at least be able to get some use out of his body by asking it about her whereabouts.

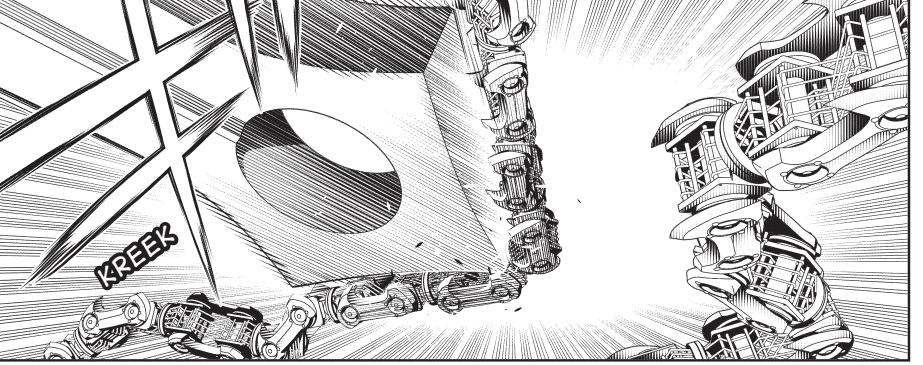

Let's bring his body back with us in the *smallest pieces possible.*
AAG

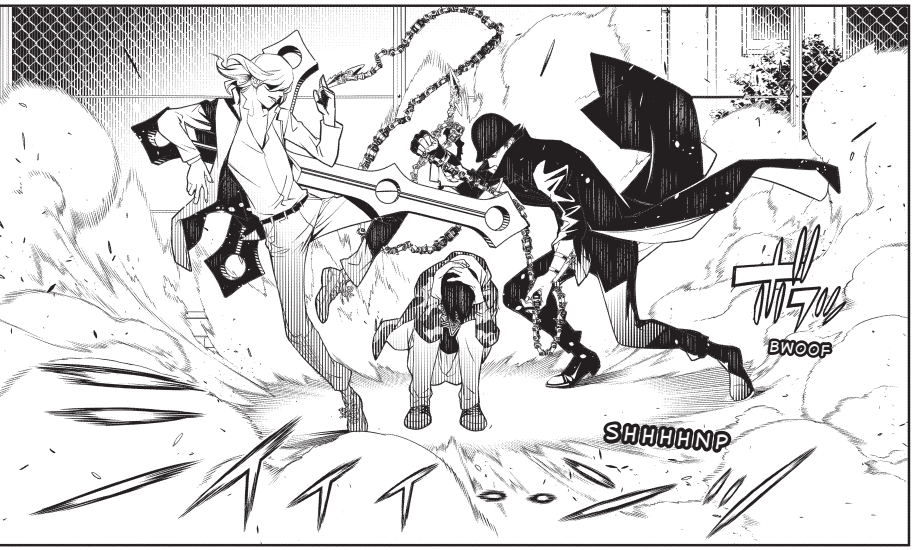

BAKEMONOGATARI
I think there were a whole host of things...
...that I should have been question-ing.
KREE


Would I really be able to turn back into a human again?
What proof did I have that Kiss-Shot wasn't lying?
She could just be using me to recover her arms and legs—in fact, wasn't that the most likely scenario?

Kiss-Shot—told me something.
Faced one at a time,
those three pose no problem for thee.
Hear me!
Thou art now my thrall.
A king of aberrations.

It was im-possi-ble.
AAAAAAAAAAAAGH
I was a mere high school student. Even if I did just become a vampire,
you can't just tell me to fight professional vampire hunters. How exactly am I supposed to do that?
And Kiss-Shot was basically telling me I could do it as long as I face them one at a time.
But two are coming out of nowhere to attack me at once! So, that's already become a worthless lie!


KREEK

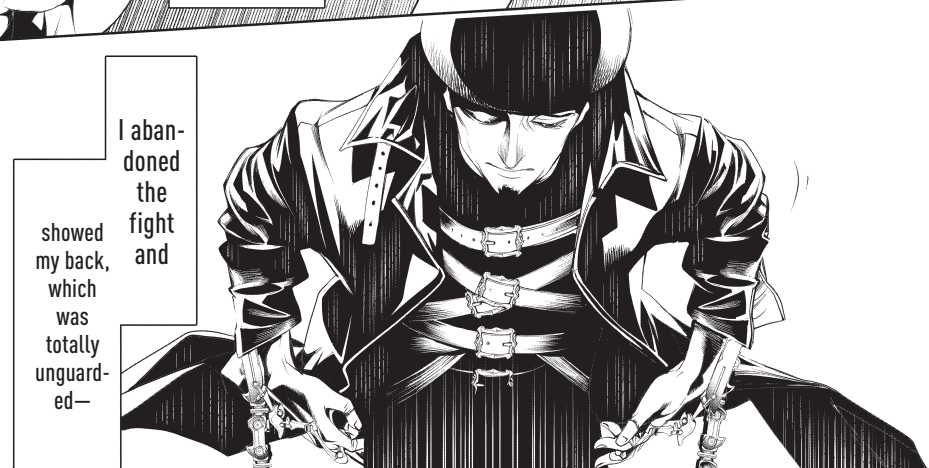

BWOOF
SHHHHNP

That knife came flying straight for my eyes.
I should be asking you the same.
And anyway, we get a separate bounty for slaying him on top of Heart-Under-Blade, right?
...
What do you think you're doing, Episode?
GRK
GRK
GRK
GRRRRCH-
FRRSH

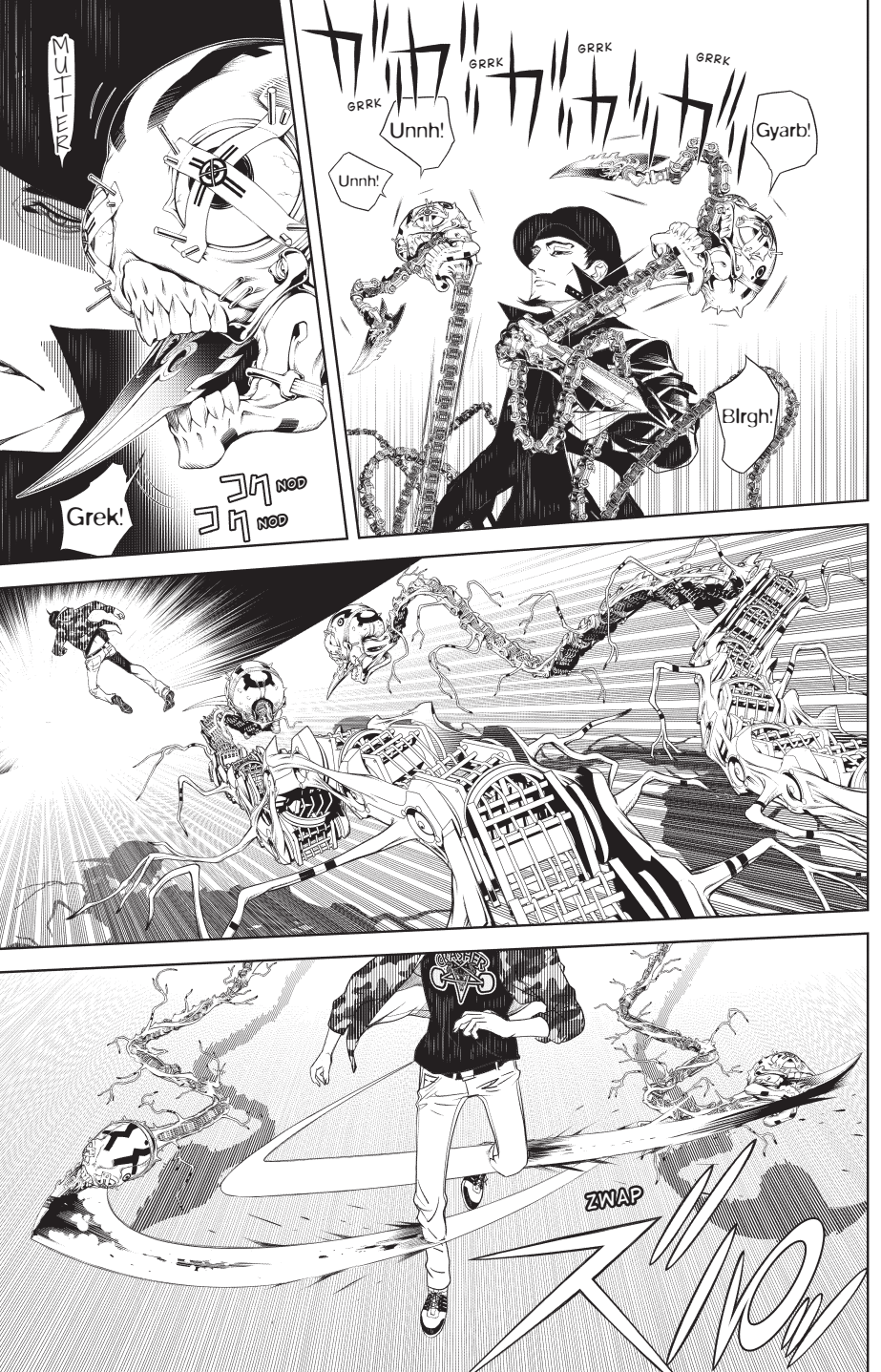
Haah!
Let me take care of this, Guillotine Cutter—you greedy bastard.
I'll make a clean kill—no permanent damage.
Haah!
Haah!
My organization has a need for him, you see...
...but fine—fair competition will help us improve both our abilities.
Heh. Gotta love it.
Eek!
Eeek!
SCURRY
SCURRY
SCURRY
SCURRY
THP

I don't remember what happened for a good while after.
I fell into a complete panic.
Hyaa

A
A
A
A
Ee—
But...
given the situation, the course of action I took was the most idiotic one conceivable.


I abandoned the fight and showed my back, which was totally unguarded—

SLURCH


MUTTER
Grek!
コク NOD
コク NOD
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
Unnh!
Unnh!
Gyarb!
Blrgh!
ZWAP

BSSHH
AH
A
A
A
A
Tanaka M.D.
But ...
as luck would have it...
...they didn't attack me.
...
He doesn't realize you cut off his legs...
...

Ah!
Hold up.
THWAM
THWAM
THWAM
PA-KRAK
Whoa!
THWAM

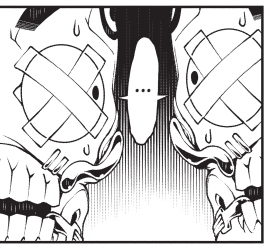
BWOOOSH
Huh?
!
Agh!

There !
Right !
Stop !
FFT
Kid !!
KRAK

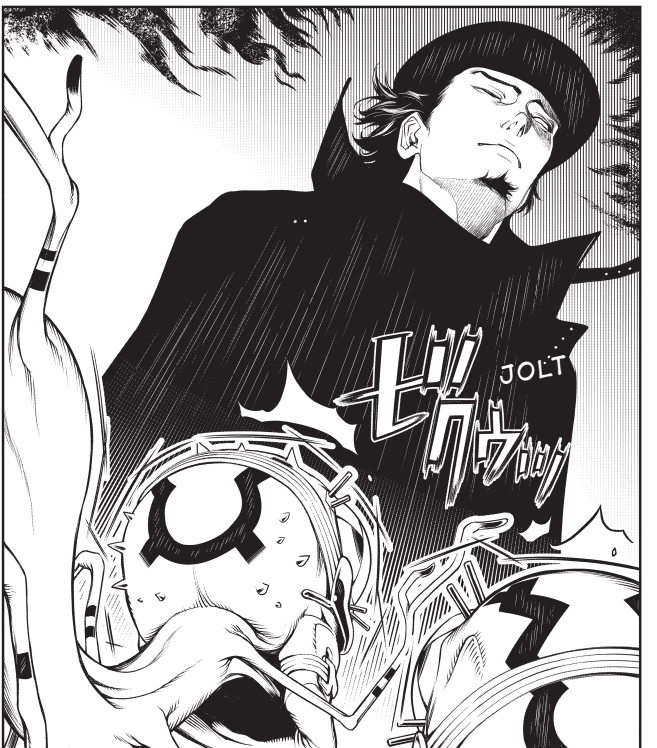
SNAPPKT
KRASH
カシャッ
Sgree!
SHNK
SHNK
SKRRCH

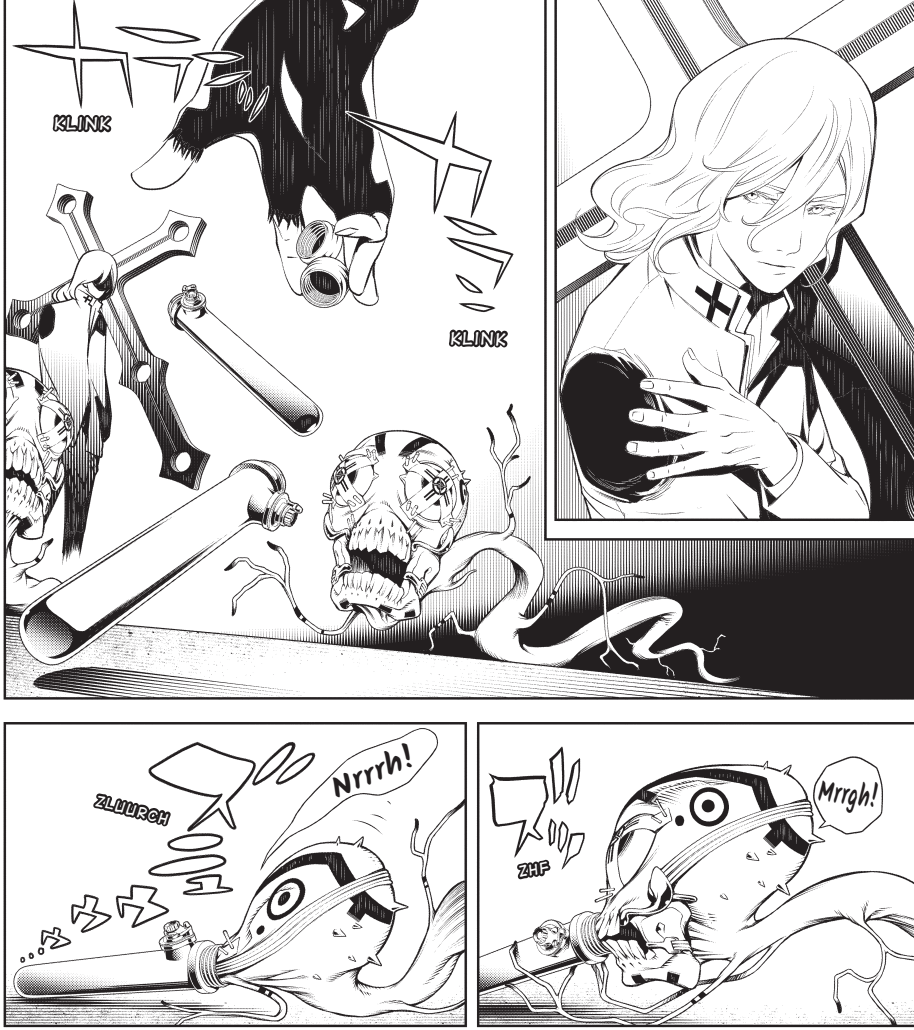
BA-KRAK
PYEE!
No waaay !!
Gimme back...
...my arm!!
SOMEONE STOP HIM!
WHIMPER WHIMPER

WHPR
PLRP
WHPR
PLRP
PLRP
PLRP


...

SST


JOLT

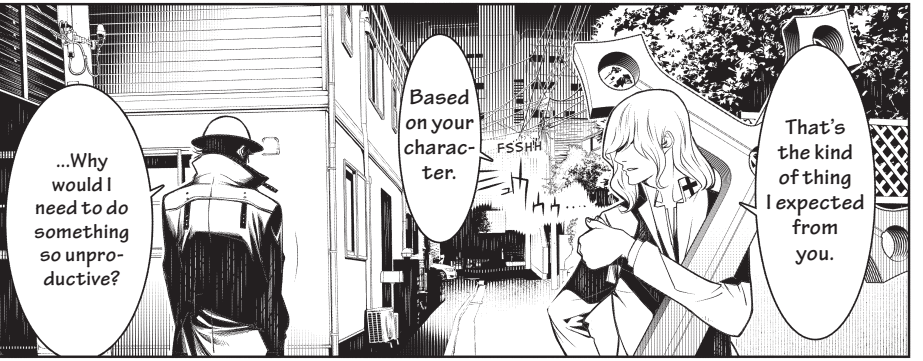

KLINK
KLINK

ZLLLURGH
Nrrrh!

ZHF
Mrrgh!

I'm disappointed in you.

You useless fucking bugs! Go back to your shithole of a country !!
WHOOMP! KRUNCH KRUNCH SNAP KRAKKL POP! This is what being stomped to a bloody pulp sounds like. SNAP SNAP SNAP GLURGLE GLURGLE!!!

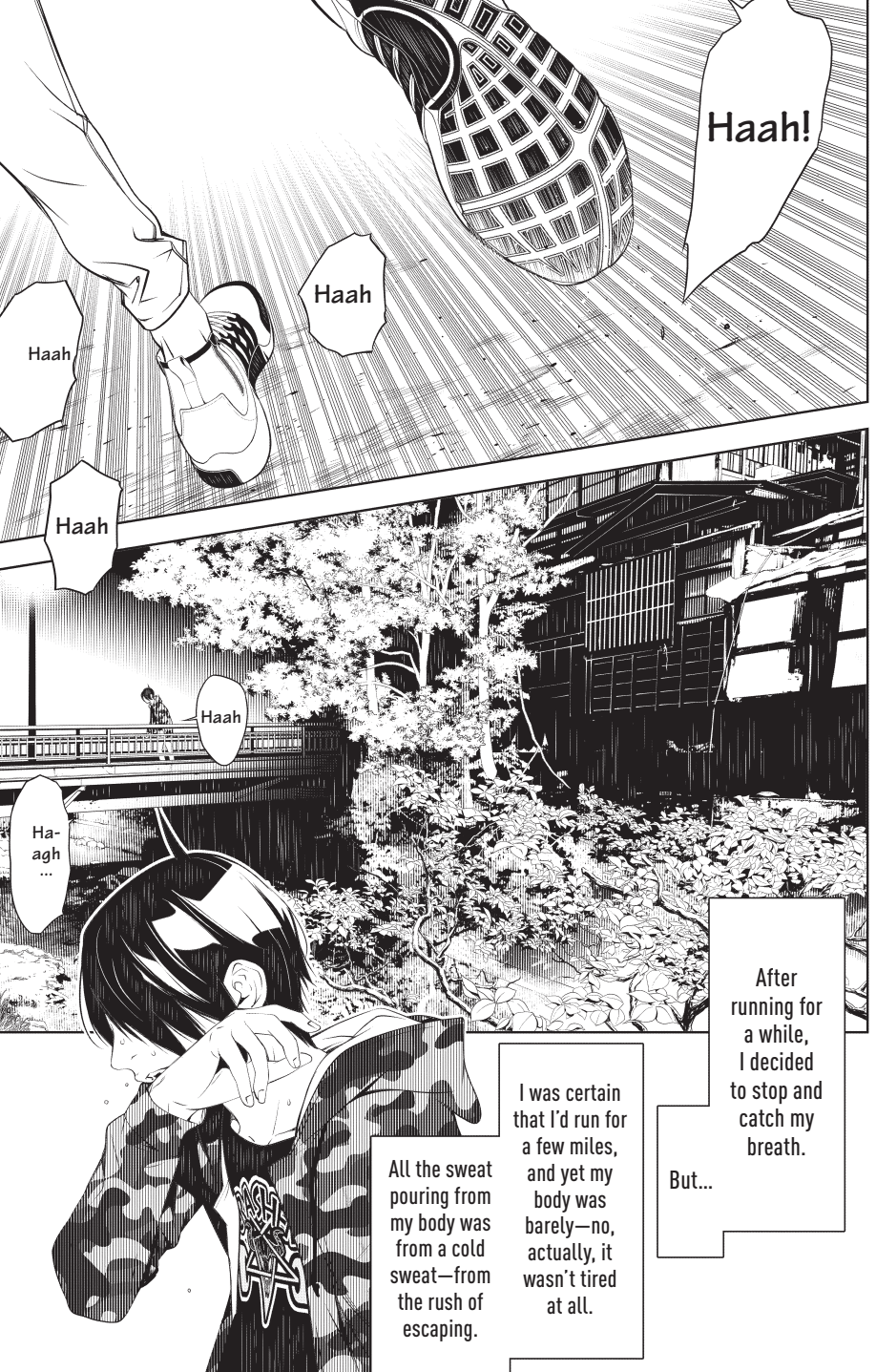

...Why would I need to do something so unproductive?
Based on your character-
FSSHH
That's the kind of thing I expected from you.

Hate ?
...No.
Because you're human.
Monsters like us.
'Cause you hate them, right?

I only hunt.
Hunting is all I do.
I fix what must be fixed
to correct this world.
And I'm willing to do what-ever it takes to achieve that.
GWAAK!
GRAAAGH!
If it takes a blade, a blade is what I shall use. If it takes a monster, then a monster it shall be.
ZHF
FLUTTER
That is all.

Hear the words of God —
and by that I mean, hear these words of mine...
BWOOF
That boy will rue the day ...
...he became Heart-Under-Blade's thrall.
...
And if he does and changes his ways...
...are you gonna let him go?
...
The boy is strong— but he is a fledgling.
Let us take the standard approach. You may act without restraint, Episode.

I thought Heart-Under-Blade had a rule about not making thralls...
... Shit.
Gotta love it.
FSST


Haah!
Haah
Haah
Haah
Haah
Ha-
agh
...
After running for a while, I decided to stop and catch my breath.
But...
I was certain that I'd run for a few miles, and yet my body was barely—no, actually, it wasn't tired at all.
All the sweat pouring from my body was from a cold sweat—from the rush of escaping.

Something's not right. What could it be?
But...
My head's finally starting to cool off, too...
It feels like I'm... overlooking something.
It's not like I believe what Kiss-Shot said—not all of it.
I'll have thee know that I sit among the top rank of vampires.
They call me the aberration slayer.
The aggravation slayer?!
Are you so short-tempered that you kill anything if it so much as annoys you?!
Fool!
Ab-er-ra-tion!!
But those guys took Kiss-Shot's limbs...
...when she was at full power, right...?

As much as I hate to admit it... I was utterly unprepared.
I blundered only because there were three of them.
So...
Doesn't that just mean... they're even stronger than you?
I'd presumed I could take even three of their ilk together...
... Huh ...
... These are just sounding more and more like excuses...
I think I was unwell, too.
And I felt a bit absent-minded as well.
Hah!
In any case, faced one at a time, those three pose no problem for thee.

I should've said they're her problem, not mine.
They pose no problem for me...?
Guys like that aren't supposed to be a problem for me in the first place...
New message
From: Little Sisters
Dismiss | Open
A reply from my little sisters—
They said they would tell people their big brother was making use of his spring break to go on a journey of self-discovery.
AH!
LAA-DE-DA-DE-DAA-DE-DA-DE
...
Chas-tised by my little sisters...
Where was it that Tyltyl and Mytyl found The Blue Bird of Happiness?
Dearest Big Brother, I know that it's a fact of life to lose our way every now and then. But try to remember...

PWAP
—Wait a sec.
Doesn't this mean they saw me as the kind of big brother who was at risk of setting out on a "journey of self-discovery" ...?
PAP
PAP
PAP
ZSSHH
AA
AA
AAAHHAH

ZSSHT

What...?!
What... is that ...?!
KRRCH
I can't see his face...
...past his man-boobs...
No, no, Mister Drama-turgy.
!!

Speak the language of the land you're in.
That should go without saying.
Urk!
Ah!
All right.
The standard approach.
Cold.
Smart.
And thorough.
...
Oh... Shit.

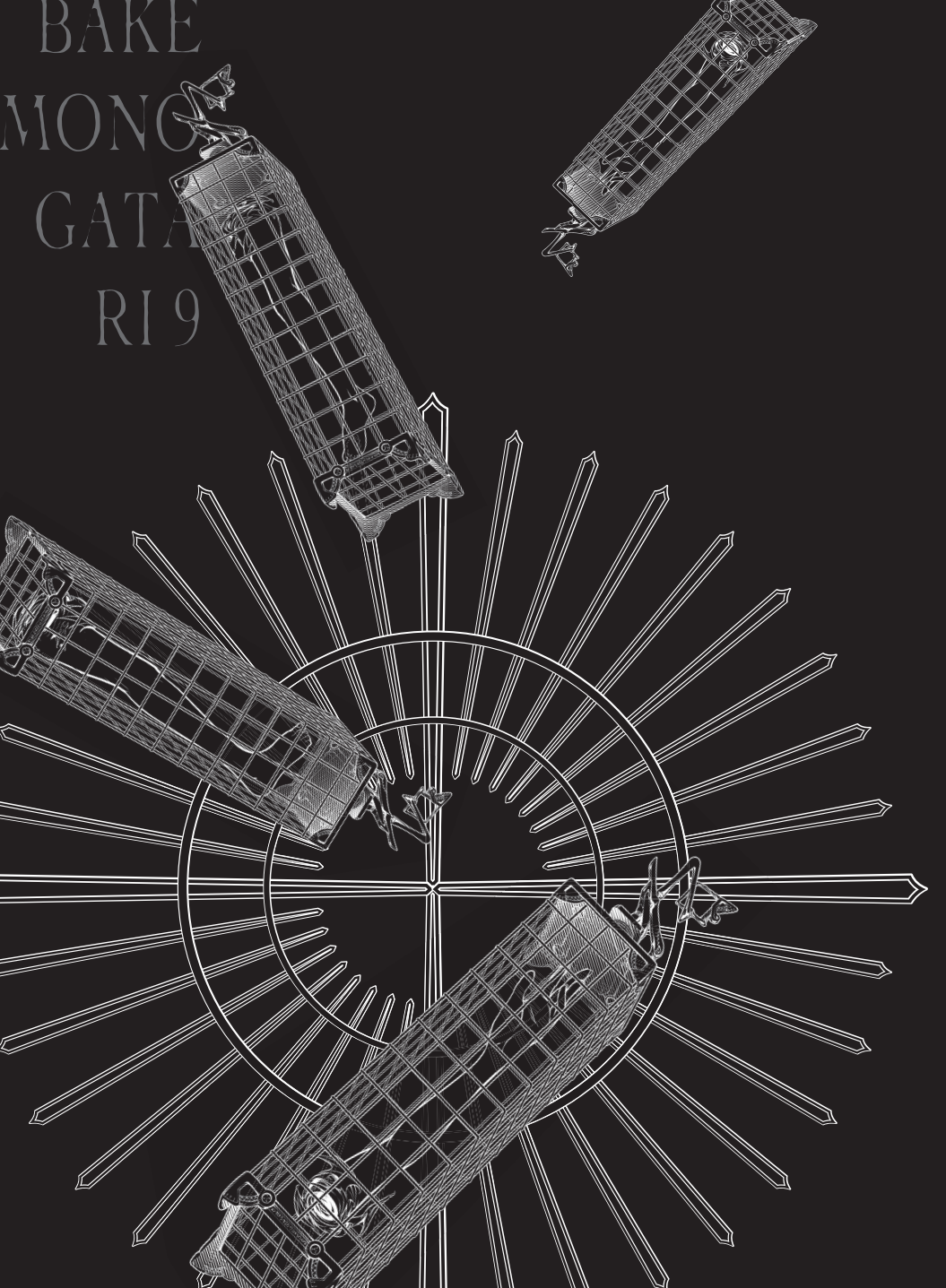
So why ...
...was I clinging onto it so dearly now...?
I'd already thrown my life away for Kiss-Shot.
CHTTR CHTTR
Leh...
Let's talk—
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

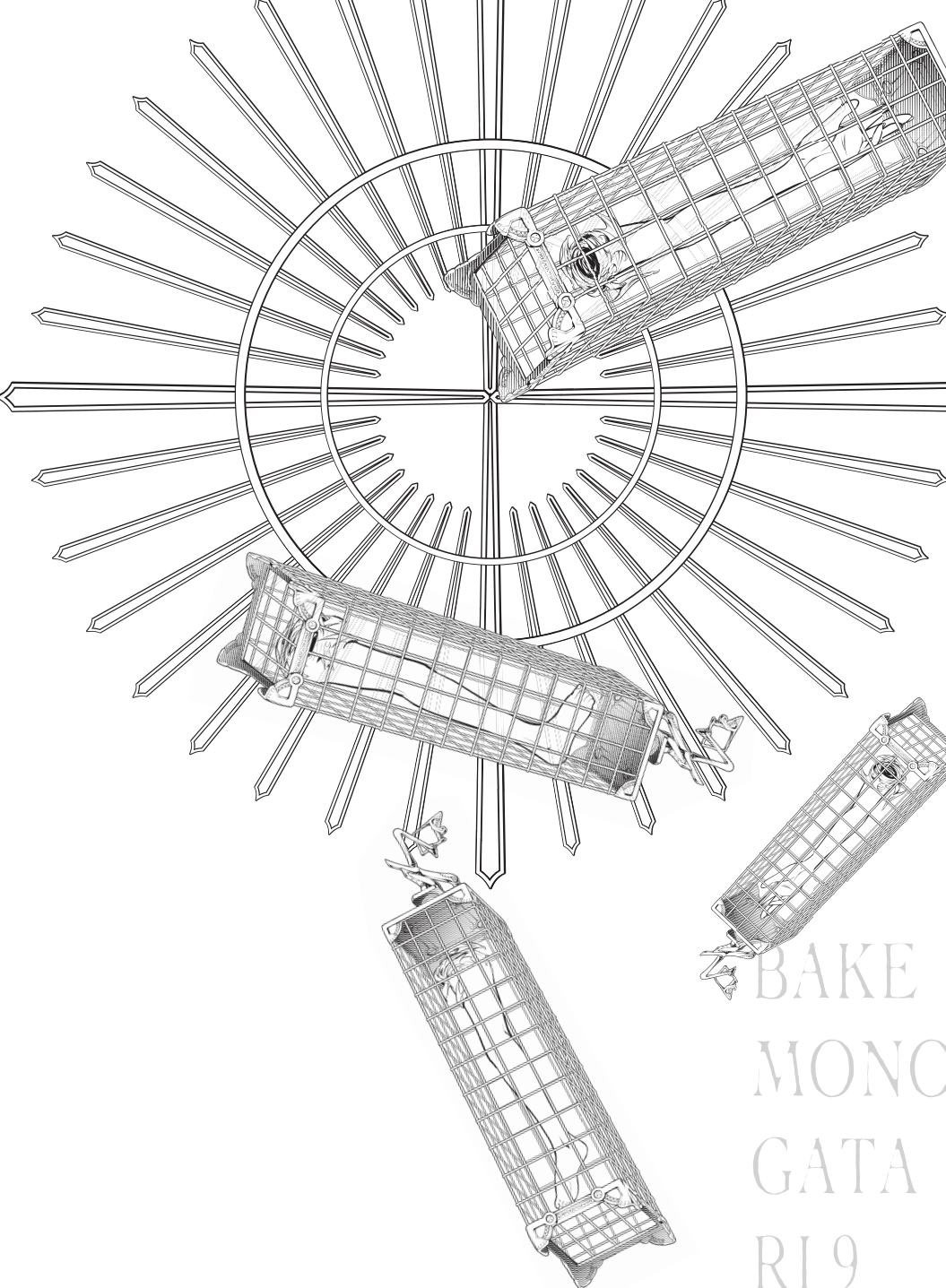
三
TRI-FORMATION
陣
駆
EXTERMINATION
除

Are you kidding me with this?
BOOM
'Cause I mean, really...

Is this how she's been treated for the past five hundred years?
Her?
?
...
...
Hooh ...
Haah
Haah
Haah

FSSSHHH
KRAK
KRAK
You sure are spirit-ed.
Something good happen to you?


BAKE
MONO
GATA
RI 9



BAKE
MONO
GATA
RI 9

TAP
GWOOSH
FWSH
THWINK

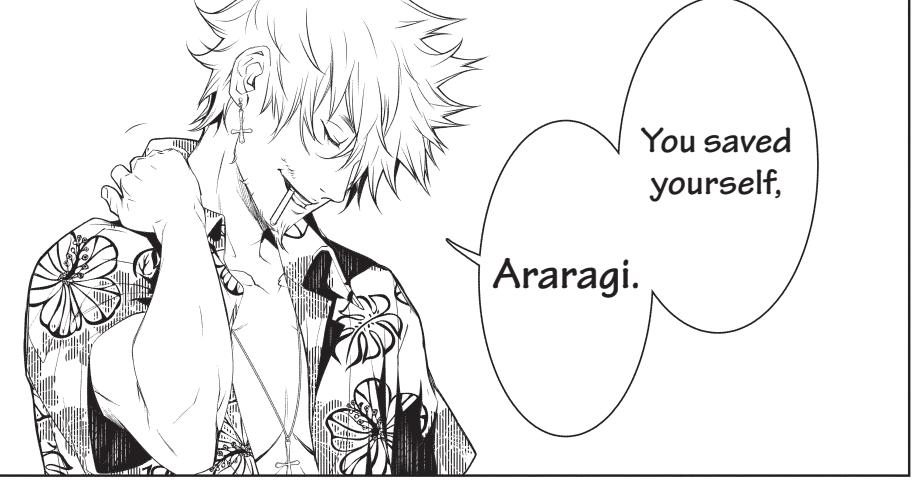
GRRK
WHMP
NGH ?!
PTT

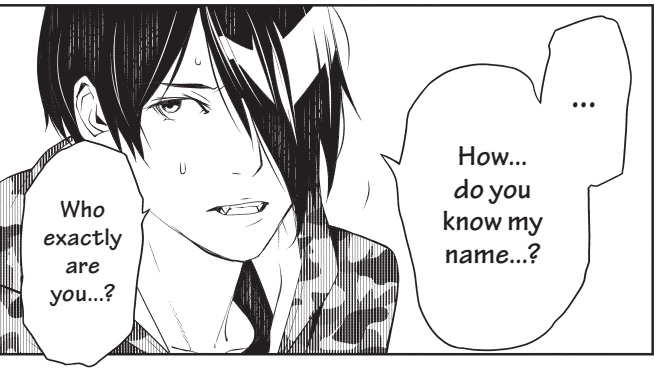
Graagh!

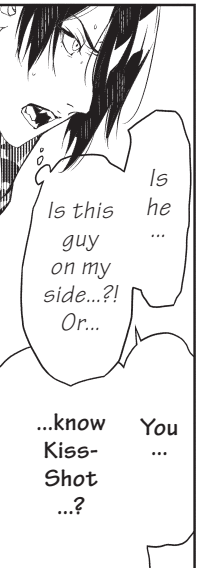
©CHHT

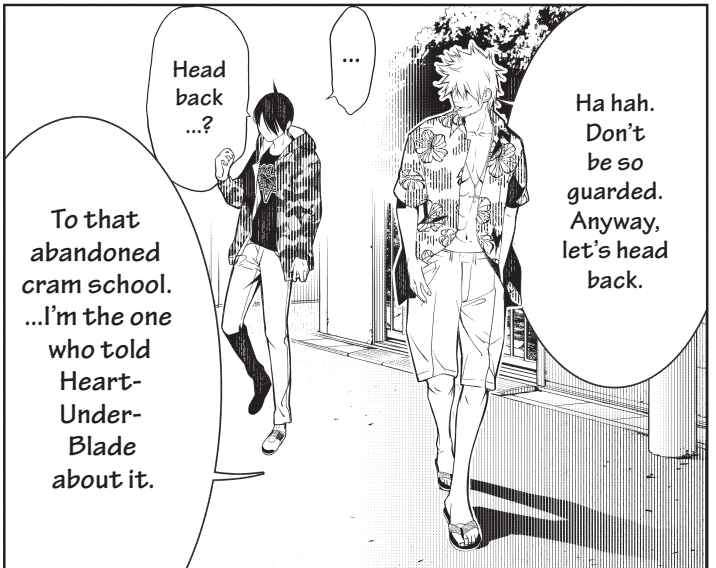
You sure are spirited.
Something good happen to you?

ZSSHH
SWOOSH
BAM
Uh...
Wha...
?!
?
Th
...
Thank...
you...?
I just happened to be passin' by.
No need to thank me.

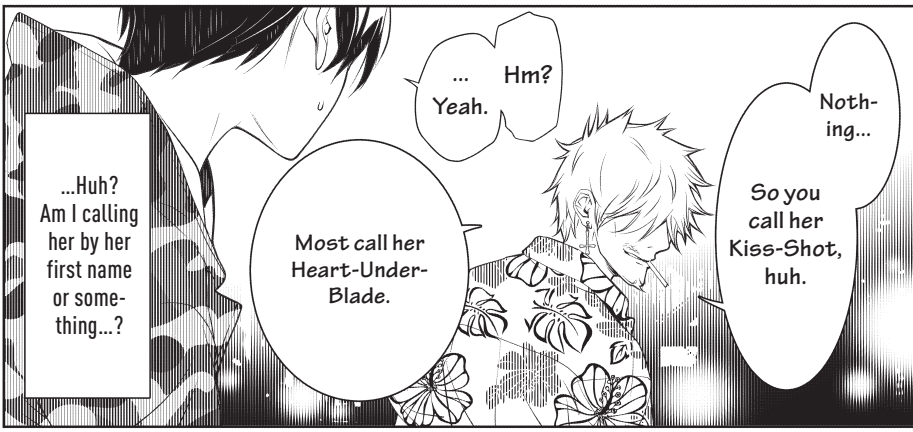

You saved yourself,
Araragi.


Who exactly are you...?
How... do you know my name...?
...


Is he ...
Is this guy on my side...?! Or...
You ...
...know Kiss-Shot ...?


Head back ...?
...
Ha hah. Don't be so guarded. Anyway, let's head back.
To that abandoned cram school. ...I'm the one who told Heart-Under-Blade about it.

...
Wh-
What
is it?
...?


...Huh?
Am I calling
her by her
first name
or some-
thing...?
Most call her
Heart-Under-
Blade.
... Hm?
Yeah.
Noth-
ing...
So you
call her
Kiss-Shot,
huh.

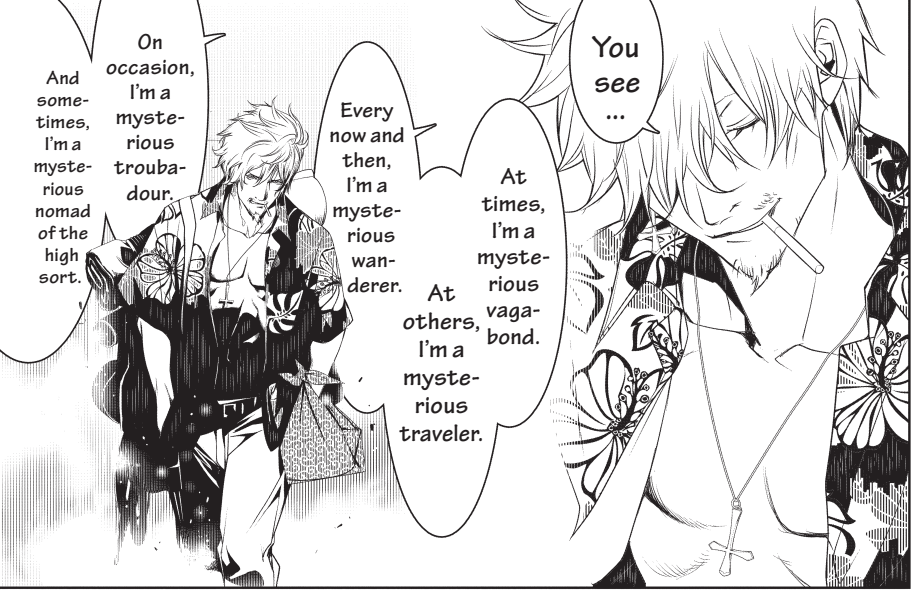
—In any case,
seems like you
got yourself
into a pretty
tricky situation
there.
She did make
you her thrall...
I guess it's not
too strange.
Whatever.

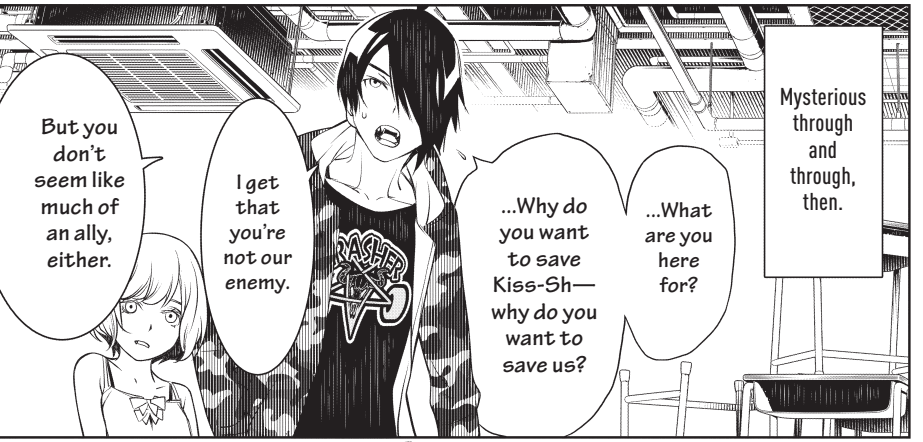
If you'd like,
I don't mind inter-ceding.
...
As in?
—This was my first meeting with Mèmè Oshino.
An "expert on aberrations."

Oshino and I wasted time on pointless small talk as we returned.
...And I mean truly pointless... Like about old anime and stuff.
I guess it was to get me to relax and let my guard down...
AH!
THOU HAST RE-TURNED !!
HOP

It sounds like you two know each other... but I just can't trust him.
Kiss-Shot ...
Thou hast successfully retrieved my body parts, no?
Hrm? What is the matter?
Oh?
This guy just went straight into the NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND NO-PANTS CONTROVERSY with me...!!

Sheesh.
They're just drawings, you know.
SHUT UP! THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO IMPORTANT!! IT'S NOT JUST THE DRAWINGS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S WHAT'S BEHIND THEM, TOO!!
AND WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE SCENES BEFORE AND AFTER THE ONE IN QUESTION, IT DOES MAKE IT LOOK LIKE SHE'S NOT WEARING PANTS!
SURE, IT'S HARD TO TELL BY THE WAY IT'S DRAWN! YOU COULD SEE THEM AS FLESH-COLORED TIGHTS...
STILL...! YOU CAN'T DO THAT, RIGHT?! I MEAN... NAUSICAA RIDES A MEHVE...
EVERYONE'S GONNA LOOK UP IF YOU'RE ON ONE OF THOSE!
THAT MEANS MITO AND EVEN LORD YUPA WOULD SEE NAU...
AA-AHH !!
YOU KNOW, WE'LL JUST CHALK IT UP TO CULTURE! YEAH, IT'S A DIFFERENCE IN CULTURE!
I can't believe you two. Is that all I am to you?
I do recall him from some-where...
It seems thou hast found a kindred spirit, but who exactly is this fellow?
Ser-vant.
IT'S OSHINO! JUST "OSHINO" IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THIS GUY! NO TITLE NECESSARY! HE DOESN'T DESERVE YOUR RESPECT!!


You see ...
At times, I'm a mysterious vagabond.
At others, I'm a mysterious traveler.
Every now and then, I'm a mysterious wanderer.
On occasion, I'm a mysterious troubadour.
And sometimes, I'm a mysterious nomad of the high sort.


Mysterious through and through, then.
...What are you here for?
...Why do you want to save Kiss-Sh— why do you want to save us?
I get that you're not our enemy.
But you don't seem like much of an ally, either.

Suppose that's only natural when I've got no intention of saving you.
Ha hah —
I'm just trying to balance things out.
Oshino began to explain at last.

So, her mere presence in a given location causes the balance between this side and the other side to crumble—apparently.
Kiss-Shot's very *existence*—
is a little too powerful.
As a self-described specialist in balancing things,
Oshino said that his job was to stand as a neutral party to help negotiate between this side and the other side.
Boy.
"Exorcisms, hunting—that's not my style.
I'm a pacifist" —Oshino concluded.

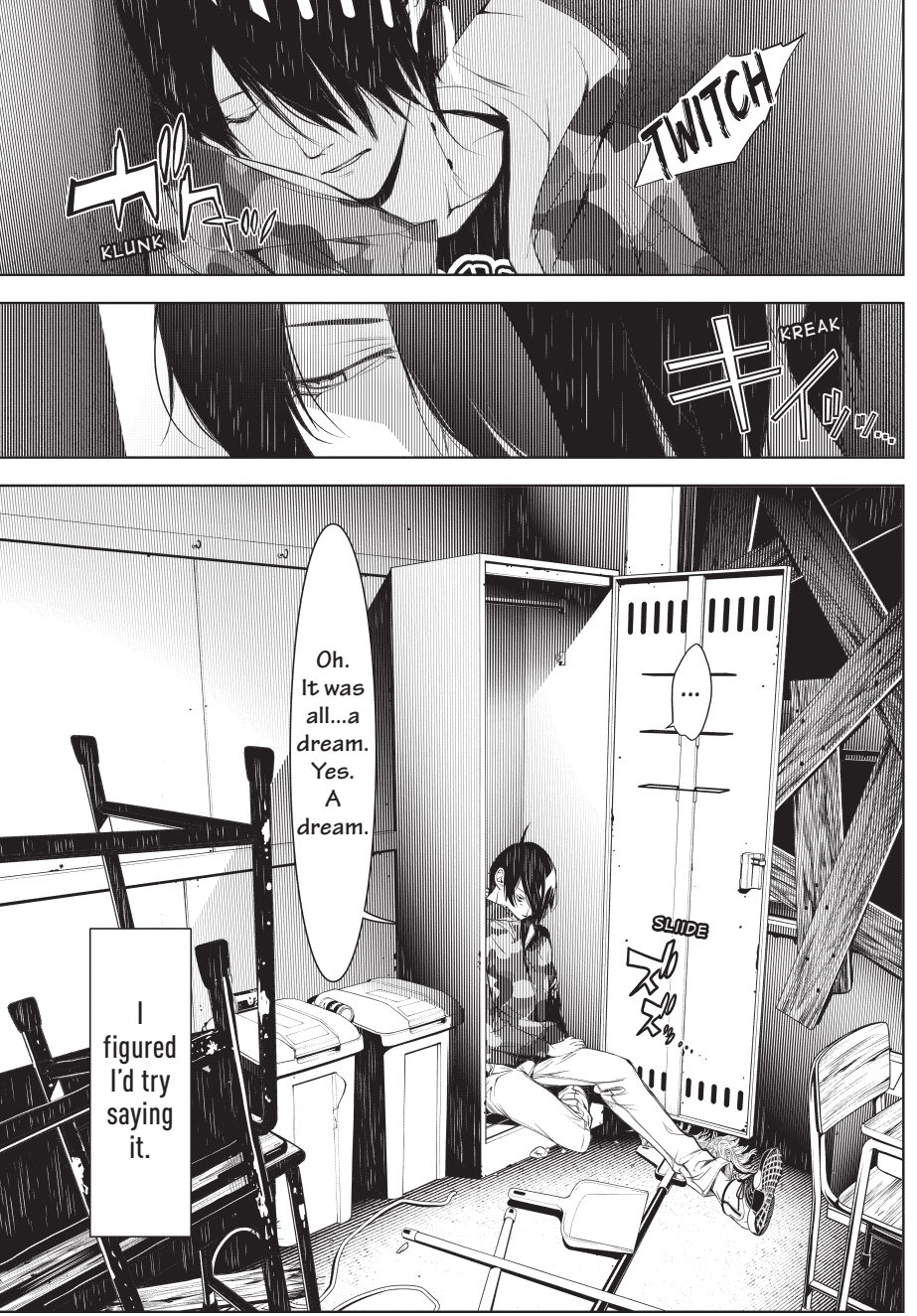
I care not for interlopers.
Inter-loper?
I'm the farthest thing from one.
Just said I'm neither friend nor foe, didn't I?
I only stand in between the two sides.
Whether you get saved or not is up to you two.
...who exactly is this guy, then...?
Um... So...

Still ...
I gotta say, I like how you do things, Heart-Under-Blade.
You made Araragi your thrall, but you intend to turn him back into a human.
—Right?
...
Oh.
Of course, this would be work for me— I don't do this for free.
Let's see...
How does two million yen or so sound?
TUH —
TWO MILLION ?!

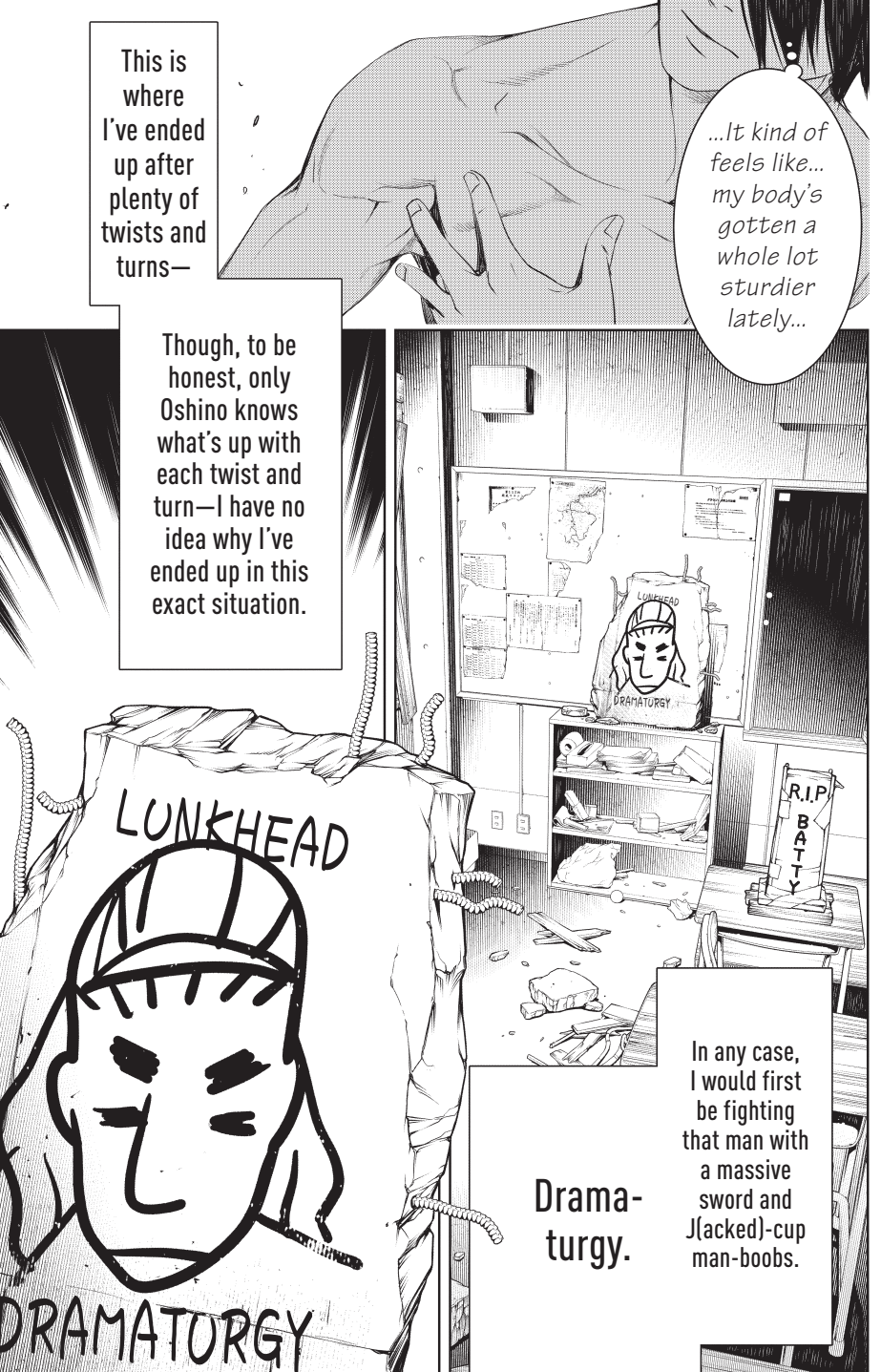
You haven't even started to tell us about your exact plan, and now you're talking like some shady salesman...?
H-Hold on a second!
And you know... This Oshino guy...
He claims he just happened to be passing by, but...
That has to be a lie!!
TAKING ON THAT KIND OF DEBT AT MY AGE IS ENOUGH TO SINK MY ENTIRE FUTURE!
No idea at all... Not even the slightest...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S WORTH, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT A LOAN IS ?!
ME ?!
I'm sure my servant will prepare the sum even if he must take a loan to do so.
Hmph... I cannot ready any human currency for thee, nor do I know the value of such an amount.
AAHH!
AGH! HOLD ON! LOOK AT THAT FACE HE'S MAKING!
ALWAYS A PLEASURE DOING BUSI-NESS!
チャッ CHKK
CHKK チャッ

I'm supposed to be part of the story here...
But it keeps moving forward without me...
MUT-TER
I can't trust them... Just can't do it...
MUT-TER
Can't trust a single one of them...
MUT-TER
GSSHT
Good night.
TMP

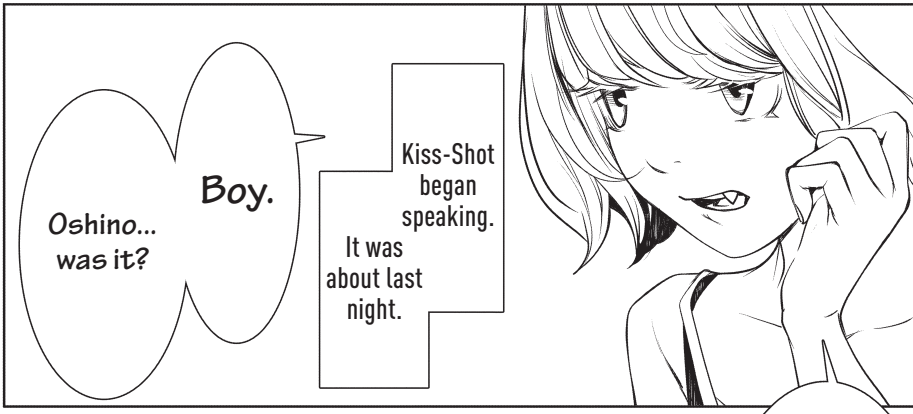
6

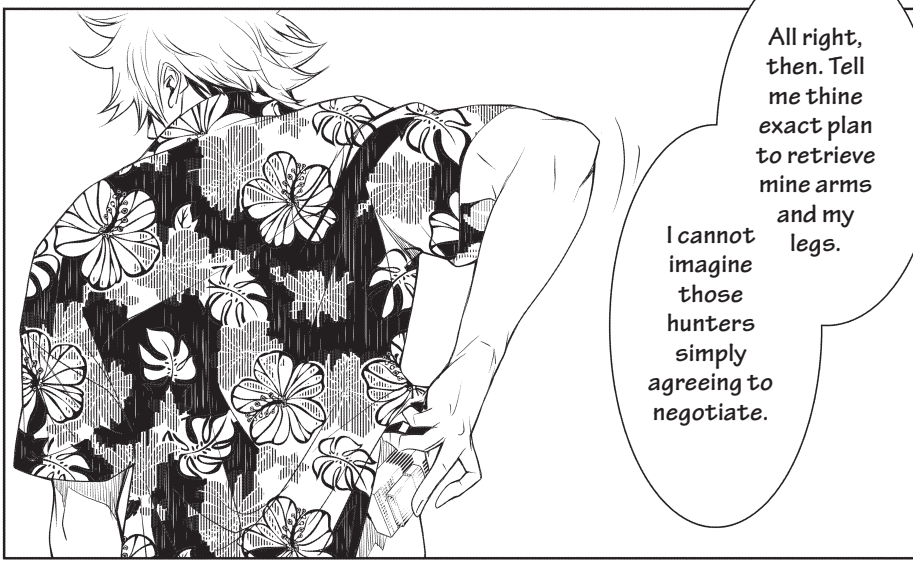

KLUNK
TWITCH
KREAK
Oh. It was all...a dream. Yes. A dream.
I figured I'd try saying it.
...
SLIDE

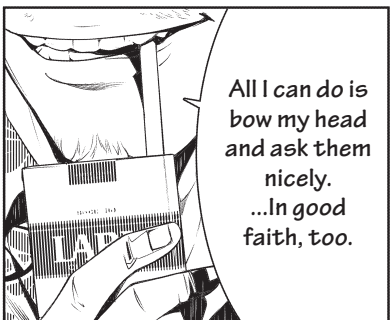
GRRT
GRRT
GRRT
KREEK
KREEK
KREEK


This is where I've ended up after plenty of twists and turns—
Though, to be honest, only Oshino knows what's up with each twist and turn—I have no idea why I've ended up in this exact situation.
...It kind of feels like... my body's gotten a whole lot sturdier lately...
LUNKHEAD
DRAMATURGY
R.I.P BATTY
Drama-turgy.
In any case, I would first be fighting that man with a massive sword and J(acked)-cup man-boobs.

March 30.

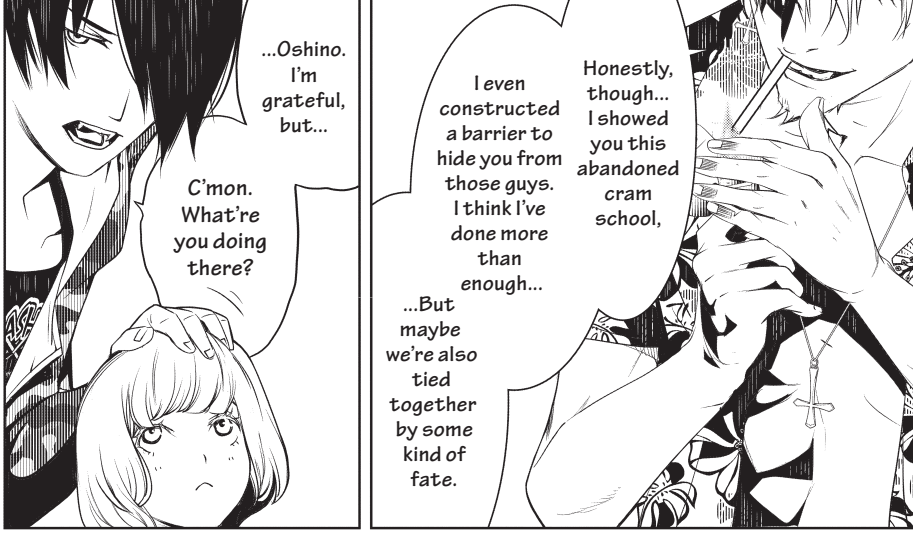

Boy.
Oshino... was it?
Kiss-Shot began speaking.
It was about last night.

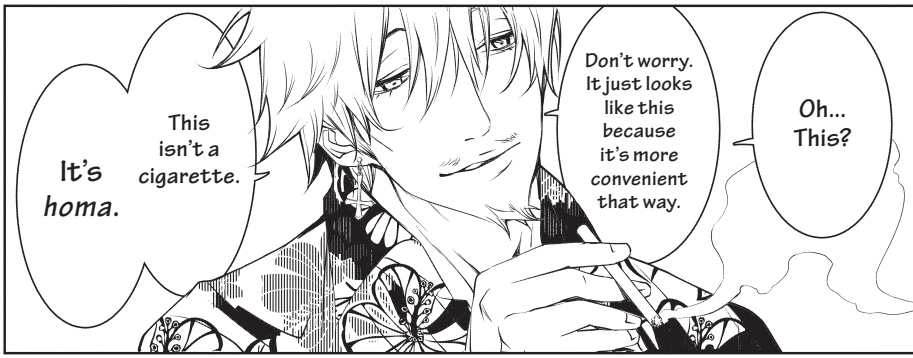

All right, then. Tell me thine exact plan to retrieve mine arms and my legs.
I cannot imagine those hunters simply agreeing to negotiate.

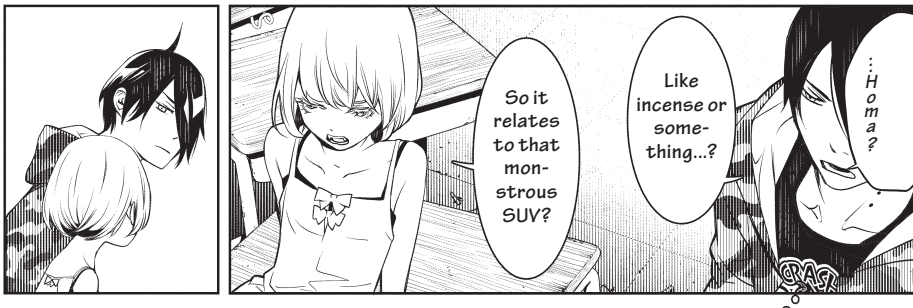

All I can do is bow my head and ask them nicely.
...In good faith, too.

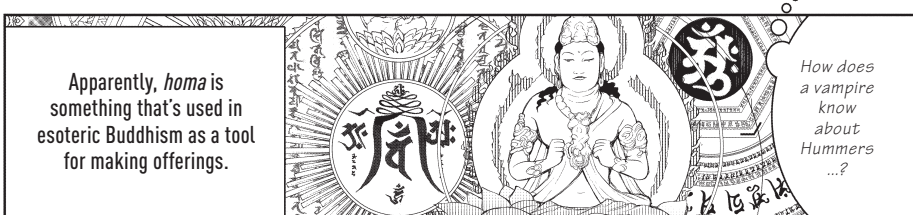
POP
TAP
HA HAH.

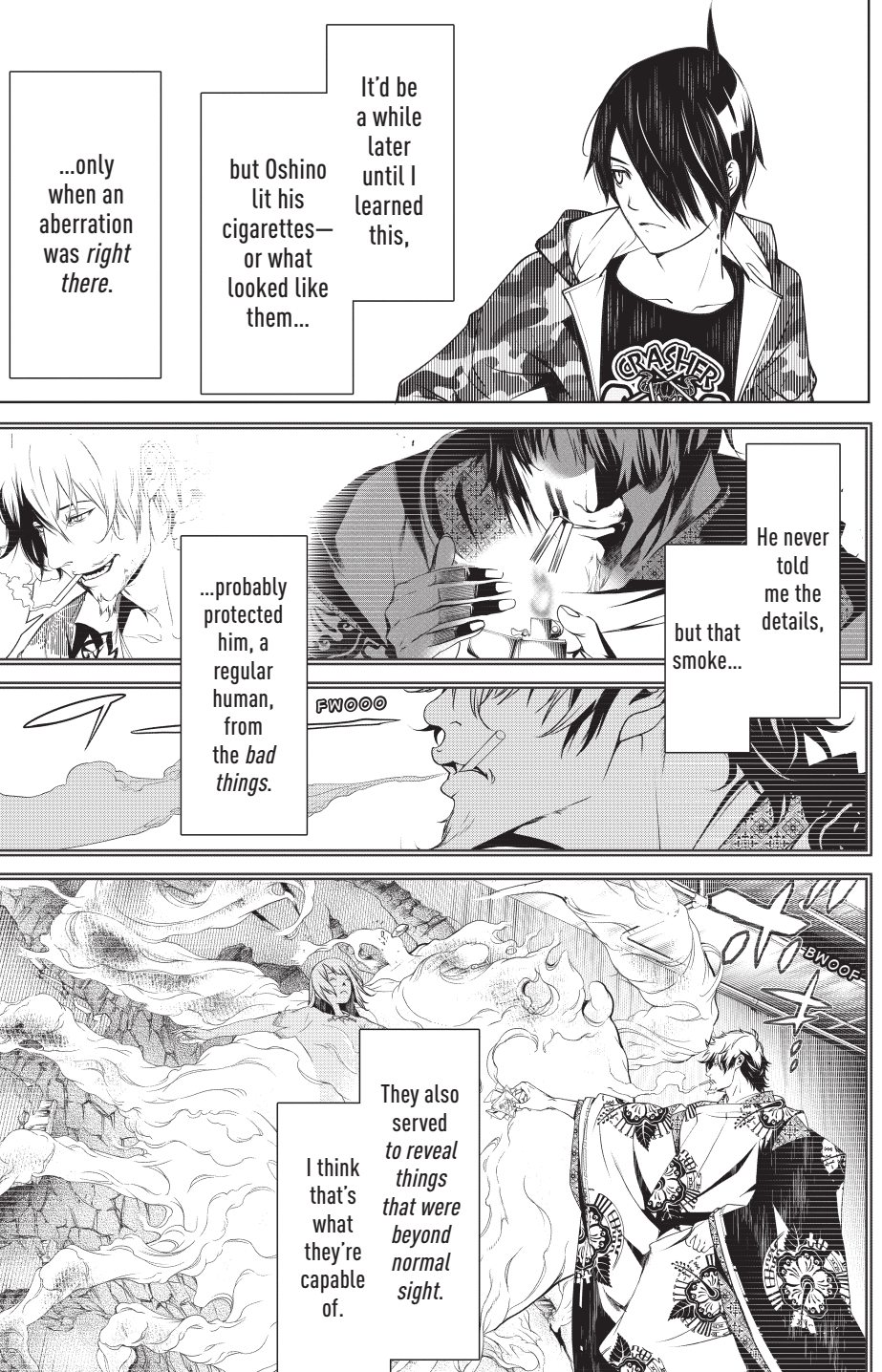
If we're lucky and they do listen, the game will be on.
Though it will involve taking on quite a bit of risk on your part.
Huh?
I have been resolved to do so from the start.
That goes for me, of course— and my servant.
She decided that I was also resolved to do so without my input...
Extermination
The details are a trade secret, but...I'll ready the playing field.
It would be a little unfair— if Araragi, a freshly-minted vampire, had to take on those three battle-hardened veterans at the same time.
In short, we're gonna split those three up.
They won't be a problem for him if he faces them one at a time— that's your read on things, right?
Li'l Heart-Under-Blade.


...Oshino. I'm grateful, but...
C'mon. What're you doing there?
I even constructed a barrier to hide you from those guys. I think I've done more than enough...
...But maybe we're also tied together by some kind of fate.
Honestly, though... I showed you this abandoned cram school,


It's *homa*.
This isn't a cigarette.
Don't worry. It just looks like this because it's more convenient that way.
Oh... This?


So it relates to that monstrous SUV?
Like incense or something...?
...Homa?


Apparently, *homa* is something that's used in esoteric Buddhism as a tool for making offerings.
How does a vampire know about Hummers ...?


...only when an aberration was *right there*.
but Oshino lit his cigarettes—or what looked like them...
It'd be a while later until I learned this,
CRASHER
He never told me the details,
but that smoke...
...probably protected him, a regular human, from the *bad things*.
FWOOO
They also served *to reveal things that were beyond normal sight*.
I think that's what they're capable of.
BWOOF

BWOOSH
I think Oshino —
must have already realized something at that point.
BWOOF
After all...
ZSSHH
アアッ……
...the story ...
...wasn't as simple as I thought.

Drama-
turgy
is a
vampire.

Still
...
Wouldn't
that
make
him a
traitor?
We've no
such
concept.

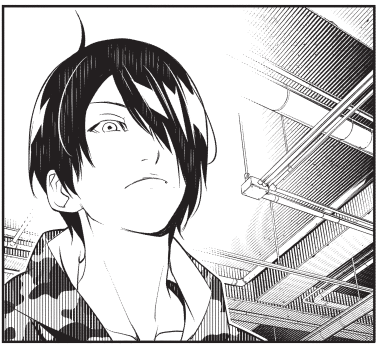
...
Huh?
A...
vam-
pire?

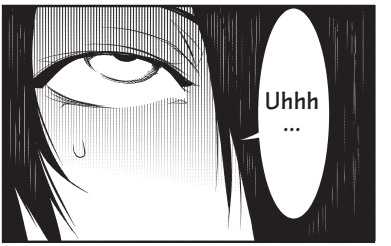
Couldst
thou tell
not by the
sight of him?
Or are there
humans who
boast his
frame?
Never have
I heard
tell of any
in my five
hundred
years.
Well...
No.

But why would a vampire be a vampire hunter?
That doesn't make sense.
KNOCK KNOCK
LONKHEAD
DRAMATURGY
GUILLOTINE CUTTER
Vampires who slay their own kind are not particularly uncommon.
THP
An eye for an eye.
A tooth for a tooth.
BA-GRAKK
A vampire for a vampire.
GSSHT
LONKHEAD
DRAMATURGY
GUILLOTINE CUTTER

Or dost thou mean to say that humans do not slay one another?

As far as I know, no species of animal exists that does not slay its own kind.
Nay, even among plants.
Trees in a forest fight one another for sunlight and nutrients.




Uhhh ...

...
Even among plants, huh.
Yeah... it's true.
I always ...
...wanted to become a plant—or so I thought, but...
SLUMP
Would that mean—nothing would change even if I became a plant...?
In any case, do be careful not to let him suck thy blood.
Vampires who have their blood sucked by another vampire will see their very existence wrung dry.
...Yeah, I'll be careful ...

The knowledge should be enough on its own, no?
DID YOU JUST TRY TO CASUALLY SLIP IN SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT JUST NOW?!
—WAIT, NO, HOLD ON!
...She barely cares about this.
Oh— that's right.
There was something more important I needed to ask.
...
Hey, Kiss-Shot ...
Hm ?
Why did you come to Japan...and to a middle-of-nowhere town like here of all places?
For a spot of sightseeing.
It was my wish to see Mount Fuji, the Golden Pavilion, and the like—
That's what she said.

She bla-tantly ...

...lied to me.

GTT

GTT

GTT

361.

362.

GTT

GTT

388.

389 ...!

March 31.

THE!!

THE SKY OF AIKIDO

Ultimate Martial Art

Introduction to Practical MMA Techniques

Martial Arts from Around the World That You Can Learn Over-night!

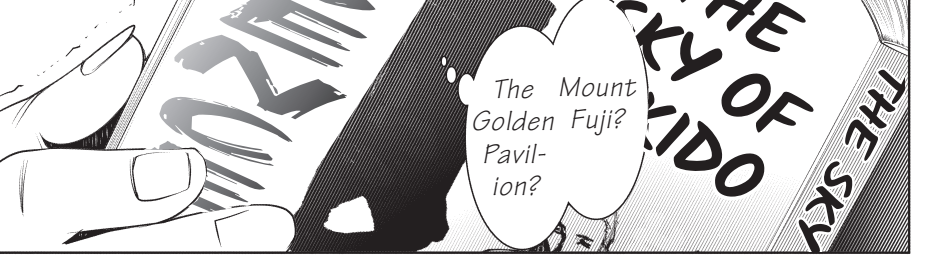
Manual!!

RECOME THE STRONGEST IN HISTORY

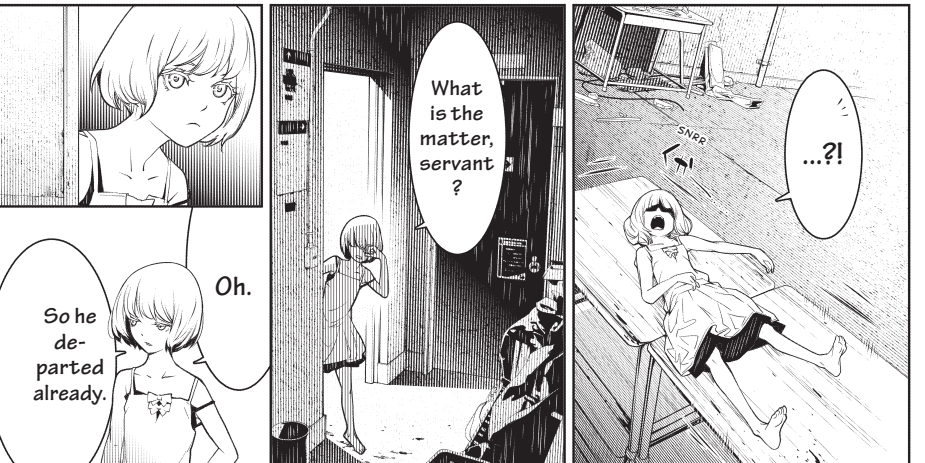
A guide with photos for everything from the basics to hidden techniques!

THE!!

THE SKY OF AIKIDO


The Mount Golden Fuji? Pavil-ion?
THE SKY

LUNKHEAD
THE SKY OF AKIDO
DRAMATURGY
Like you'd find any of that in our town !!


Oh.
So he de-parted already.
What is the matter, servant ?
SNAP
...?!

KLATTER
YAWN
If thou wanted an exit, make a smaller one, fool.
It will let the sunlight in...!
LUNKH

I was... already dead.
It should have all been over for me when Kiss-Shot sucked me dry of my blood.
...Oh, no... This cost me 2,500 yen, too...
TATTER
ボロ...
THE SKY OF AIKIDO
THE!!
So why do I have to fight...?
Aren't I just letting other people use me as they see fit, even in death...?
ESSENCE
Dammit...!
I've got zero motivation to do this...
THP
Oh!
I thought it was you!

Good eve-
ning,
Ara-
ragi.

THWAP
Why are you out here walking the town at this hour like you're one of the Magnificent Seven?
Hane—!
... kawa...?
?

I'M NOT GIVING YOU A LOOK TODAY.
OH, NO.
OH.
NGH
TH-THWUMP

LUNKHEAD
DRAMATURGY
DUMMY
EPISODE
BAKEMONO-
GATARI (9)
GLOOMY
GUILLOTINE CUTTER

LUNKHEAD
DRAMATURGY
DUMMY
EPISODE
GLOOMY
GUILLOTINE CUTTER
BAKEMONO-
GATARI (9)

SKRRK
Wh-
Wh-
Wh
Wh
Wh-
Wh-
Wh!
SKKRK
Wh
—
SKKRK
Wh-
Wh-
Wh
SKKRK
Wh-Wh-
Wh-What
do you...
...m-m-mean
m-mean m-mean
mean b-b-b-by
th-th-that?

Did you forget about my panties?
Huh ?
I tried to play it off coolly, but instead, I sounded like I was trying to rap.
BLOOP
My voice was cracking.
Even after you stared at them like that...
I clearly acted like a guy who knew her panties like the back of my hand.

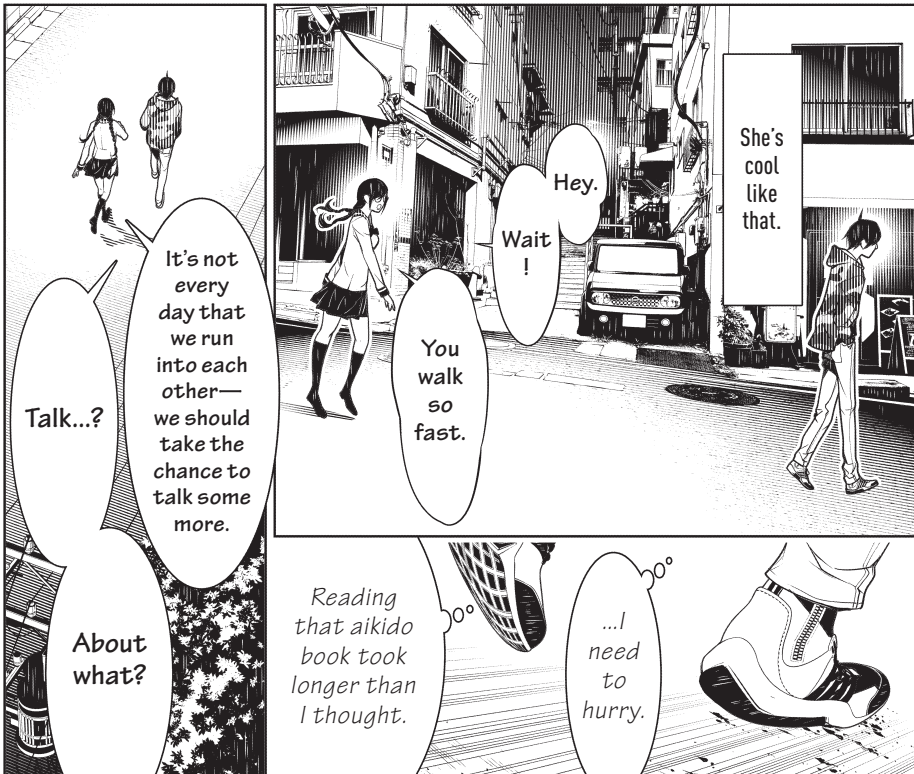
Pant-ies?
Oh.
You mean those articles of clothing that are used in this country to protect one's lower body against the cold?
Don't act like you're from a dif-ferent culture.

N-No!
This is a misunder-standing! It's all a misunder-standing!
I only saw the lining of your skirt!
That was the only thing I was paying atten-tion to—the lining of your skirt!

That's pretty perverted in its own way.
Hane-kawa ...
...was a little out of breath.
Hanekawa, nicknamed "Naoetsu High's grand-prize winner of the genetic lottery,"
was fairly athletic as well. No small task would be able to tire her out.

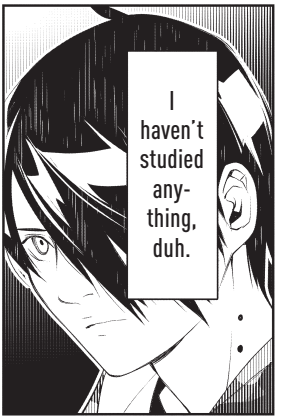
Could she have been running at full speed over a long distance after spotting me...?
...
...Maybe I'm over-thinking it...
Hm? What's that book?
What's with those eagle eyes?!
THE SKY OF AIKIDO
Well—
Yep, that's about it.
SST
Hmm? What's the matter?
Is that book something you don't want me seeing?
Oh!
Could it be something dirty?
Don't be stupid.

THOK
THOK
THOK
THOK
I SEE.
OH?
HMM.
Not even once have I touched printed matter of such ill repute!
GRASP
GRASP
GRASP
It was a bald-faced lie.
But Hane-kawa let it go at that and spared me a retort.
I dare not sully my soul with such things.
JIGGLE


Hey.
Wait!
You walk so fast.
She's cool like that.
It's not every day that we run into each other—we should take the chance to talk some more.
Talk...?
About what?
Reading that aikido book took longer than I thought.
...I need to hurry.

...
What kind of small talk is that?
Araragi, what did you study today?
Right— here goes.
Hmm... Well...

...studies during spring break!
No regular high school boy...


I haven't studied anything, duh.

Huh...
I focused mostly on math.
If the rumors are true,
she knows her times tables up to five hundred.
Five. Hundred.

Despite being a washout, math was the only subject I was good at, but that didn't mean I was at a level where I could discuss it with Hanekawa.

"Unfortunately, all I did today was study Spanish."

"Spanish? ...Hunh. Too bad. I don't know much Spanish."

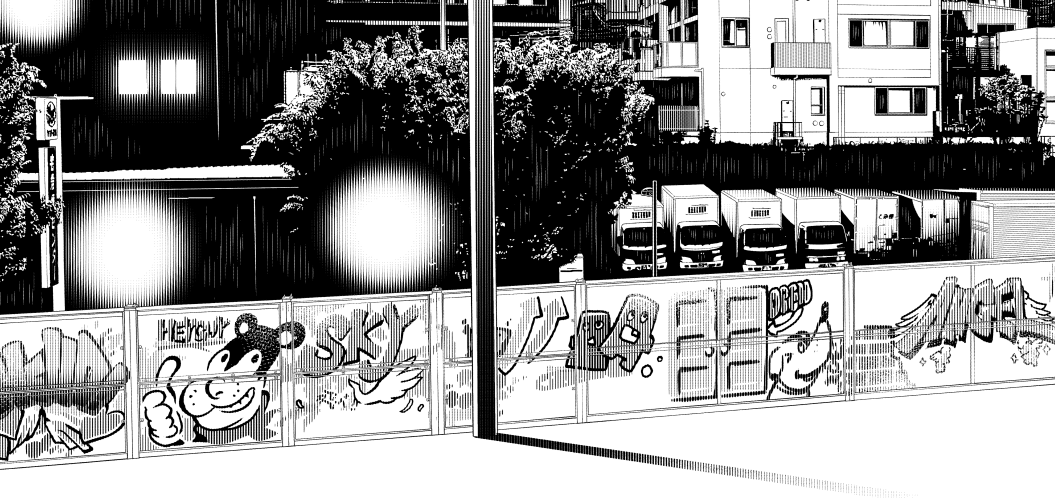
"Oh. That really is too bad."

"Yeah. Just enough for basic conversations."

...So she could handle basic conversations...

"Anyway, who cares what I studied. Every day is a new lesson for all of us. Let's think more...about...um...yeah—How to make society a better place."

"You're absolutely right about that, Araragi."



“Okay, what might we do to get rid of bullying?”

...

...Like I’d know!! This is supposed to be small talk! Spare me the heavy stuff! She’d toss me that without any sort of advance prep?!

“I know that’s pretty heavy, but Araragi, we’ve got to start somewhere. Like they say, Lourdes wasn’t built in a day.”

“You mean Rome wasn’t—”

Wait.

Didn’t “Lourdes” also mean “heavy” in French? A clever one, wasn’t she. She ad-libbed that?

“...Um, for starters, placing security cameras throughout a school should get rid of outright bullying at least?”

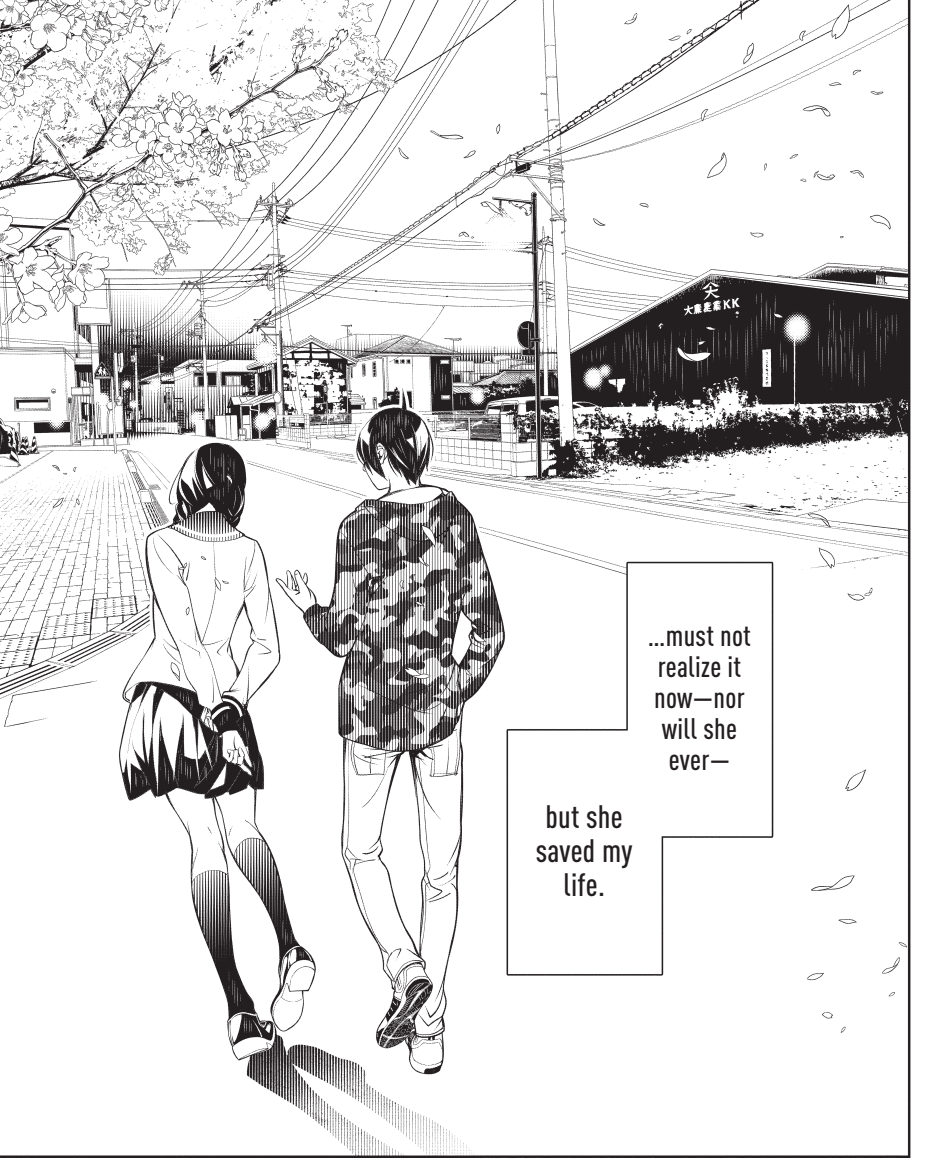
It wouldn’t address the cause, but it’d surely wipe out the effect.

“Hmm. It’s not bad as an idea, but there’s still the issue of privacy. What about locker rooms?”

“Guh.”

She’d pointed out a major flaw in my plan. People do get bullied in locker rooms. In fact, private spaces pose the highest risk.

I wasn't just talking about the girls' locker room, you know.
DRAT !!
TEE-HEE
As the person who came up with the idea, I'll take responsibility for checking the videos of the girls' locker room.
Okay, I got it.
Fine, then... I'll let you check the videos of the boys' locker room, so just pretend that I never said that!
NO, THANK YOU!
Hane-kawa ...



Hanekawa saved me.

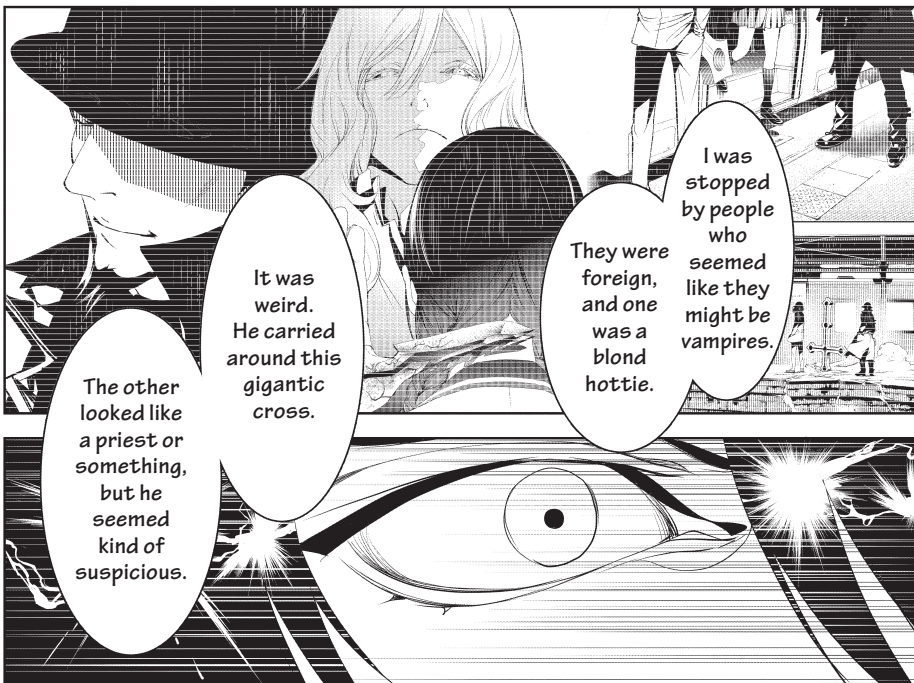
That's right.

It was because of this moment ...
...that I decided to continue being human.

And wait —
What are you doing out here at this hour?
Do you live around here?
No, nowhere near. I was taking a stroll
and wondering if I might be able to meet a vampire.

A part of me is really hoping I will.

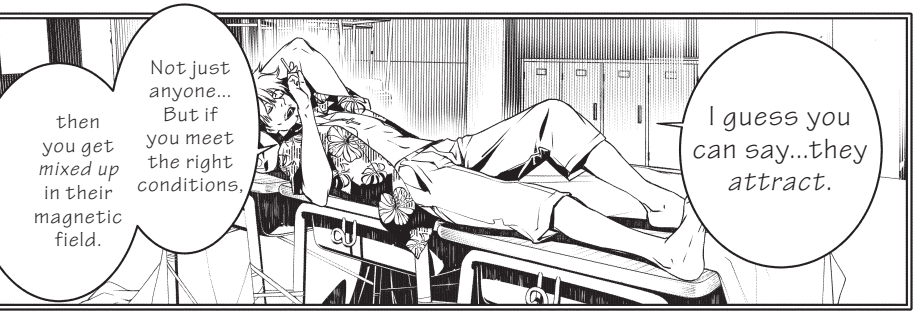
...Yeah. That's right.
He's right in front of you.
...?!
At the station.
At first... I thought it was just a rumor.
But I may have met a vampire already.

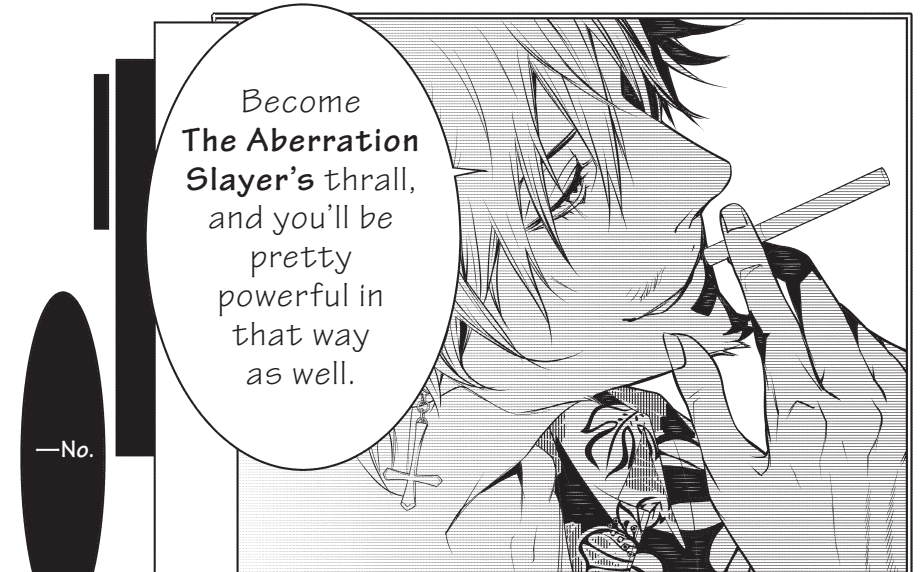

I was stopped by people who seemed like they might be vampires.
They were foreign, and one was a blond hottie.
It was weird. He carried around this gigantic cross.
The other looked like a priest or something, but he seemed kind of suspicious.

Of course, they seemed to be fine out in the sun, plus they had shadows.
I doubt they were vampires, but...
TH-THMP
Hm... How do I put it...?
They seemed—*very close to it.*
TH-THMP
It made me feel like there might just be a real one closer to me than I think.

BULL-
SHIT
...!!
...Um... Sorry. ...Did I say something that touched a nerve?
Ah...
No.
AH
きょとん
HUNH...?
Listen up, Araragi.

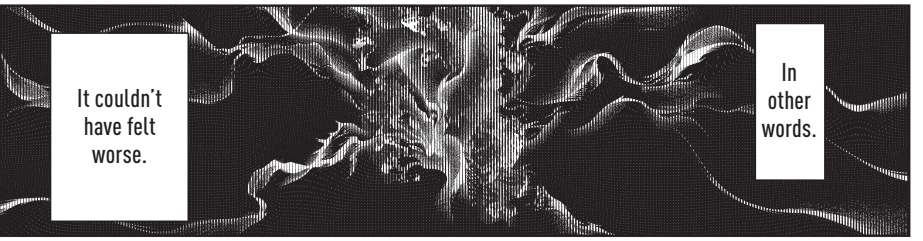
Aberrations are like a kind of magnet, you see.


I guess you can say...they attract.
Not just anyone... But if you meet the right conditions,
then you get mixed up in their magnetic field.


Become **The Aberration Slayer's** thrall, and you'll be pretty powerful in that way as well.
—No.

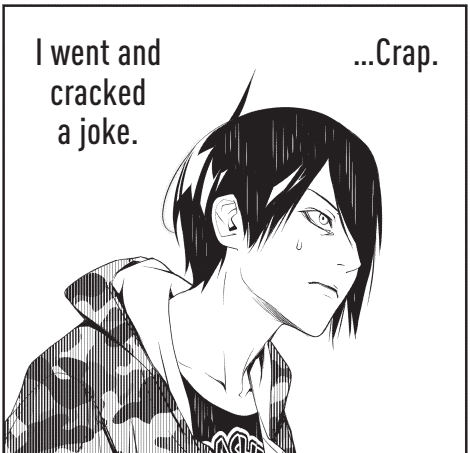
You're the one who gets on my nerves.
?!
You piss me off.
I'm sick and tired of you.
...
I don't know if this is some way for you to get good letters of recommendation for college, but what do you think you're doing talking to a washout like me?
You might enjoy whatever feelings of superiority you get from this,
but the sight of you standing there feeling sorry for me is unbearable.

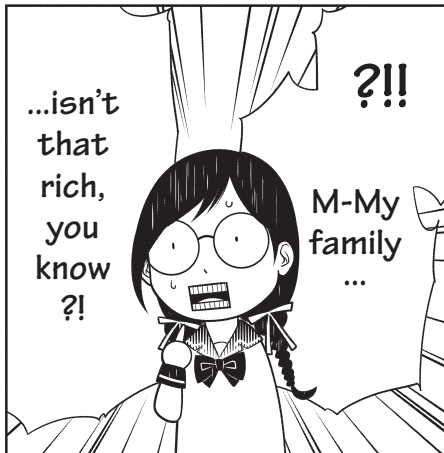
It felt like I was abusing a kitten.


It couldn't have felt worse.
In other words.

But—
it was fine.
I was pretending.
It wasn't fun for me at all.
Weren't we having fun talking just a second ago?
...A ...Araragi? Why are you saying these things all of a sudden?

My feel-ings don't matter.
I was only after your fortune.


I went and cracked a joke.
...Crap.


...isn't that rich, you know ?!
?!!
M-My family ...

Continued in Volume 10

BAKEMONOGATARI in Detail

The Path of the Manga Until Now

10+ years ago

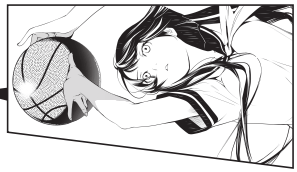
Mayoi is involved in a traffic accident.

7 years ago

Hitagi falls seriously ill.
She survives, but her mother is sucked into an evil cult.

4 years ago

Hitagi tries to recruit Suruga to the track team, but Suruga beats her in a free-throw contest.

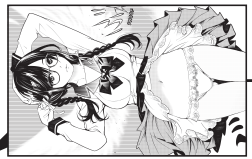


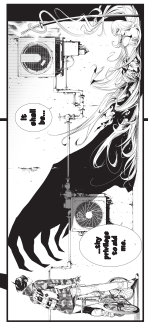
2 years ago

Hitagi encounters a crab and has her weight taken from her.

Second year of high school

3/25
(spring break)





Koyomi meets Tsubasa and etches her panties into his memory. Koyomi encounters a near-death Kiss-Shot and is turned into a vampire.

KIZUMONOGATARI: Wound Tale

354 pages
$14.95

Chapter 0: Koyomi Vamp

It all begins here! It's the prequel to Bakemonogatari: Monster Tale! It all starts on the night following the last day of school, when Koyomi Araragi meets the beautiful vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade...

NEKOMONOGATARI: Cat Tale (Black)

288 pages
$15.95

Chapter Nixed: Tsubasa Family

The truth about Golden Week is told at last. What is the aberration that bewitched Tsubasa Hanekawa, the flawless class president? Yet it seems what she's really fallen into...is love.

Senior year of high school / Currently in the manga

4/29

Tsubasa is bewitched by a cat.

5/8

Koyomi catches Hitagi and learns the secret of her weight.

5/14

Koyomi finds Mayoi. While lost, Hitagi tells him she loves him, and they begin going out.

5/29

Koyomi is attacked by Suruga.

6/11

Koyomi and Suruga happen to pass by Nadeko.

6/12

Koyomi and Suruga release Nadeko from the snakes coiled around her.

PRESENT DAY

6/13

Koyomi recollects.

BAKEMONOGATARI: Monster Tale (1) & (2)

1: 240 pages
$13.95
2: 330 pages
$14.95

Chapter 1: Hitagi Crab / Chapter 2: Mayoi Snail / Chapter 3: Suruga Monkey / Chapter 4: Nadeko Snake

Hitagi Senjogahara, a girl who falls out of the sky toward Koyomi Araragi, weighs so little that she nearly doesn't at all?! Youth is the messiest of times!

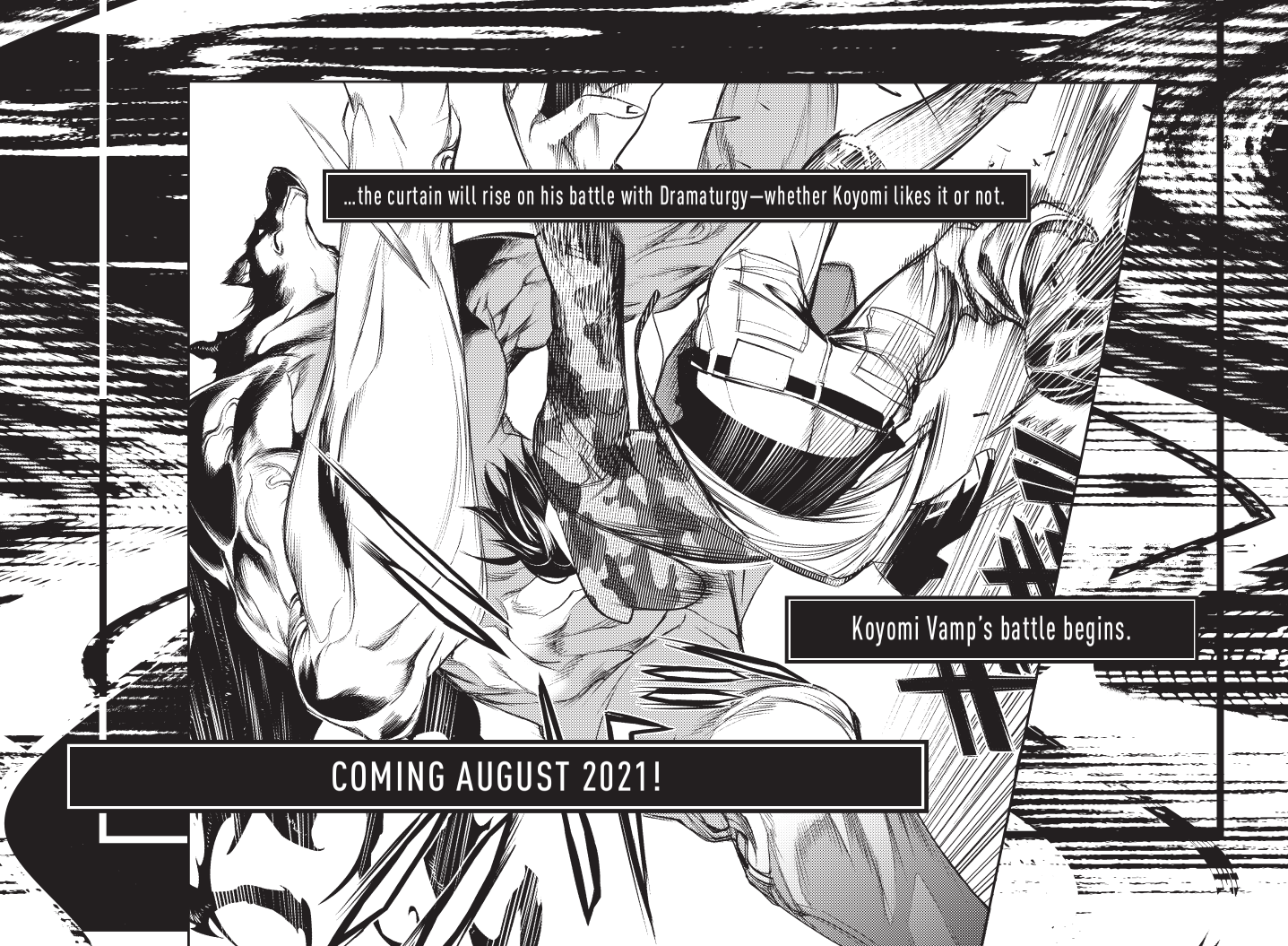
BAKEMONOGATARI: Monster Tale (3)

226 pages
$13.95

Chapter 5: Tsubasa Cat

What is the aberration Koyomi Araragi now faces that has bewitched Tsubasa Hanekawa, the flawless class president?! It's time to mess up your youth!

Next Volume Preview
BAKEMONOGATARI 10
As Koyomi prepares to fight,
Tsubasa suddenly appears before him.
Though Koyomi can't stop questioning how he should treat her...


...the curtain will rise on his battle with Dramaturgy—whether Koyomi likes it or not.
Koyomi Vamp's battle begins.
COMING AUGUST 2021!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 9

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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